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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-162 *22 August 1995*

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Islamic Affairs

OIC Says Israel Implementing Plan in Jerusalem

LD2008164995 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1605 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah — The Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] reaffirmed that despite the commencement of the peace process in the Middle East, the Israeli occupation authorities are still continuing to implement their plan in holy Jerusalem, as the process of confiscating land and properties, building settlements in and around the city, imposing a blockade and isolation on the city, and preventing the Palestinian citizens from entering the city and performing their religious rites continues.

In a press statement issued by the OIC today on the occasion of the anniversary of the burning of the Aqsa Mosque, OIC Secretary General Dr. Hamid Algabid pointed out that Israel was continuing its attempts to hinder the action of the Palestinian national establishments in holy Jerusalem, thus violating the agreements ratified by the Palestinian and Israeli sides, which call for not making any changes during the transitional period. In his statement, Dr. Algabid pointed out that the OIC, while expressing its support and backing for the finding of a just and comprehensive solution for the question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict, and for the agreements that have been concluded within the framework of this process, would like to reaffirm that any final solution should guarantee the return of holy Jerusalem to Palestinian sovereignty, a capital for the state of Palestine. [passage omitted]

MB's Mashhur on Elections, Talks With Government

NC1708174895 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 14 Aug 95 pp 26, 27

[Interview with Mustafa Mashhur, MB first deputy general guide, by 'Abdallah Kamal, in Cairo "last week"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Kamal] Have you assumed the powers of the general guide?

[Mashhur] This is a lie. Its inaccuracy has been demonstrated. His Eminence Shaykh Hamid Abu-al-Nasr issued a statement denying it. He repeated it in a press interview. The picture is clear.

[Kamal] What is the significance of Ma'mun al-Hudaybi's appointment as a new deputy general guide?

[Mashhur] The position became vacant [with recent death of Ahmad al-Malat] and had to be filled.

[Kamal] What are the powers of the first deputy, Mustafa Mashhur?

[Mashhur] We make our decisions by shura [consultation]. We do not believe in one individual having total control.

[Kamal] General Guide Abu-al-Nasr has said the Muslim Brotherhood's [MB] branches abroad are under your jurisdiction. Please comment.

[Mashhur] This is not true. His eminence the secretary general denied this and stated that there is no international organization in the literal sense. There are only branches formed by Muslim Brothers abroad who follow the same principles. [passage omitted]

[Kamal] Please comment on the increase in police and court cases against the Muslim Brotherhood.

[Mashhur] It is a security and media campaign that is designed to hinder our participation in the People's Assembly elections. What other reason can there be for the successive measures against us?

[Kamal] Do you have a new working plan?

[Mashhur] Our policy is clear and well known.

[Kamal] Are you willing to negotiate with the government?

[Mashhur] We have always demanded normal and calm communication channels with the government. We still want such channels. However, only security personnel deal with us and these people are not authorized to discuss anything, they must implement the orders issued to them. Our position is that the government should belong to all Egyptians, not just to the National Democratic Party. All parties have the right to communication channels. [passage omitted]

[Kamal] What is your position on the coming elections?

[Mashhur] They will be contested by individual candidates. Each candidate will make his own decisions. The Muslim Brotherhood is part of the people.

[Kamal] Will jailed Muslim Brothers run in the elections?

[Mashhur] This decision will be left to the concerned persons themselves. Some detainees and prisoners have shown a determined desire to be candidates.

[Kamal] Will your alliance with the Labor Party continue?

[Mashhur] The alliance continues. They confirm this and we confirm it. [passage omitted]

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[Kamal] What is your opinion of Sudan's Islamic movement?

[Mashhur] Dr. Hasan al-Turabi announced his secession from the Muslim Brotherhood in the early 1970's. A small group of Muslim Brothers in Sudan refused to join his National Islamic Front. This group is still operating under the Muslim Brotherhood name. We do not quarrel with others who work on the Islamic scene because this arena is very large. However, we definitely have no special agreements, coordination, or cooperation with al-Turabi. Concerning the accusations that are made against him, we are not in a position to confirm or deny them. As a rule, however, we oppose any terrorist act and all domestic and foreign conspiracies. [passage omitted]

Al-Azhar Academy Denounces Beijing Conference's Agenda

NC2208105395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Aug (MENA)—The Islamic Research Academy in al-Azhar has affirmed that the UN World's Conference on Women, scheduled to be held in Beijing in September, is a link in a chain that seeks to invent a new pattern in life that runs counter to religious values and destroys the moral barriers and longstanding traditions. However, the conference fails to realize that these very values, barriers, and traditions have thus far shielded many peoples and countries from plunging into the abyss of sexual depravity, the pitfalls of psychological disturbances, and the quagmire of immorality.

A statement released by His Eminence, al-Azhar Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, who is also the chairman of the academy, noted that the goal of those who have prepared the Beijing Conference's agenda is to endorse what they failed to endorse at the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] held in Cairo in September 1994. For that reason, they are trying hard to push the same issues the world community has turned down; issues that dealt in part with the concept and makeup of family, children's upbringing, sexual relations, and abortion.

The Islamic Research Academy's statement went on to add that those who have drafted the Beijing Conference's agenda were bold enough to go beyond repeating their lost causes. Giving the false impression that their calls are well-intentioned and honest in purpose, they went as far as trying to change nature by using the word "kind" dozens of times and twisting its meaning with a view to eliminating differences between males and females and turning people into misfits who are neither males or females.

The statement denounced an item on the conference's agenda calling on parents to disregard extramarital sexual activity by teenagers and to treat it as a personal matter in which parents have no right to interfere. According to that item, family as defined by religion is obsolete since it does not tolerate free sexual relations among people of various ages or heterosexual relations outside of wedlock. The statement added that those who prepared the agenda called for a radical change in relations between men and women and equal division of labor between them, including men's right to maternity leave and equality in inheritance for both sexes.

The Islamic Research Academy's statement stressed that the conference's program runs totally contrary to Islam's teachings, which treat family as a source of tranquility, amity, and compassion and call for the need to establish a family to serve as an impregnable shield to be able to bring up generations that believe and trust in God under the supervision of parents. The statement denounced the conference program's call for what it describes as the right of a woman and a teenage girl to choose for herself whether she wants to be treated as a male, female, or otherwise, to live her sexual life with whomever she wants, be they males or females; the call on government institutions to permit such behavior; and the reference to prostitution as something wrong only if it is imposed on women. The statement added that this shows how those who have drafted the conference's agenda contravene the teachings of all heavenly religions, including Islam, which does not recognize any sexual intercourse between a man and a woman out of wedlock, prohibits adultery and homosexuality, and equates males and females without confusing the status of the each.

The statement noted that a close examination of the Beijing Conference's agenda will show it to involve an abominable encroachment on peoples' rights and a despicable custodianship on nations. This is clearly manifest in the agenda's call to stop treating religion as a barrier toward full equality between men and women and an obstacle preventing the implementation of any part of the conference's hateful program. The statement reiterated its adherence to the statement issued before the ICPD conference in Cairo last year. The statement expressed reservations and called on countries and peoples to express reservations on items on the Beijing agenda that contravene the Islamic shari'ah and all heavenly messages or that run counter to longstanding social and cultural values, particularly those related to the form and system of family under these religions, the unleashing of sexual freedom in violations of these

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religions, and permitting abortions in cases other than for saving the life of the mother.

The Islamic Research Academy called on Islamic states to continue to preserve their purity of conduct and morality, to hang tightly to every virtue and shun every sin in human society promoted by such calls, which will ultimately lead to the abyss, and to lie in wait for calls for sabotage and destruction which those who prepared the Beijing Conference's agenda are seeking. The statement urged the countries participating in the Beijing Conference to amend the proposed draft agenda and to correct its phrasing so as not to even implicitly involve issues that contradict the Islamic shari'ah, other heavenly religions, and Islamic values throughout the ages.

The Islamic Research Academy reiterated its rejection of whatever runs contrary to the Islamic shari'ah and recommended that reservations be declared so that it will not be binding on the Islamic nation.

Palestinian Affairs

Reaction to Jerusalem Bus Explosion Continues

'Arafat Conveys Condolences to Rabin

JN2108195595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat this morning spoke on the telephone with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to convey his sincere condolences to the families of the victims of the explosion that occurred in Ramat Eshkol in Jerusalem this morning.

President 'Arafat denounced the Ramat Eshkol operation, saying: We are against all acts targeting the lives of innocent civilians. President 'Arafat asserted that the aim of the operation, whose perpetrators receive orders from abroad, is to harm and hamper the peace process. He also expressed hope that the operation would not affect negotiations to achieve peace.

'Arafat Warns 'Those Taking Orders From Abroad'

NC2108212095 Paris AFP in English 2037 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Aug 21 (AFP) - PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat vowed Monday [21 August] to cut off the hands of any Palestinian militants taking orders from abroad, after a suicide bus bombing in Jerusalem killed six and wounded 100.

"Each time we are getting near to an accord on prisoners or we find ourselves only two steps from Al-Quds (Jerusalem), something happens and I have proof that it is not just by chance, in fact it is just the opposite," 'Arafat said.

He was addressing an audience commemorating the burning of the Al-Aqsa mosque on August 21, 1969. The mosque is the third holiest site in Islam.

"The higher interest (for the Palestinians) lies not in the orders dictated from abroad to carry out an operation and receive in return money," he said.

"I will cut off the hand of anyone receiving orders from abroad whether that be Iran or any other country.

"I am not the one stopping the tanks from arriving in Jerusalem or Nablus" in the occupied West Bank, he said, referring to countries opposed to the peace process such as Iran and who have urged force to retake the occupied territories.

He also said it made no difference whether Monday's suicide bomber was a man or a woman, saying "a Moslem doesn't attack innocent civilians."

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, which is violently opposed to the PLO's autonomy accords with Israel, claimed Monday's attack on a packed bus in a Jewish quarter of Jerusalem in an anonymous call to Israel radio.

'Arafat: Blast To Obstruct Prisoners' Release

JN2208065495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat said that yesterday's suicidal operation confirms a fact we have repeatedly stressed — namely, every time we come close to reaching an agreement to release our prisoners, someone tries to prevent us from doing so by carrying out operations upon outside orders.

In a mass rally in Gaza yesterday on the anniversary of the burning of al-Aqsa Mosque, President 'Arafat added that the Taba talks were difficult and tough, and that the Palestinian march was always faced with major obstacles, such as the siege in Beirut and the war launched against the camps. However, he said, we have always managed to overcome difficulties. President 'Arafat said that the aim of this operation is to prevent us from reaching holy Jerusalem and from releasing 2,900 political prisoners.

Security Officials, Gaza Mayor Condemn Attack

TA2108141595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brigadier General Zakariya Bal'ushah, the head of the Palestinian security services

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[title as heard], said that over the past two days his men had stepped up patrols in the Gaza Strip out of fear that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] would carry out terrorist attacks in retaliation for the arrest of the Hamas terrorists in al-Shaykh Radwan.

General Bal'ushah told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that there may be a link between the terrorist attack in Jerusalem and the 26th anniversary of the torching of al-Aqsa Mosque. The general criticized the imposition of a closure on the Gaza Strip and said that the closure had no logic from the security perspective.

Major General Nasr Yusuf, the commander of the Palestinian Police in the Gaza Strip, telephoned Economy and Planning Minister Yosi Beilin this afternoon and condemned the terrorist bombing. Yusuf expressed the hope that the peace process would not be harmed.

Gaza Mayor 'Awn al-Shawwa called Ashdod Mayor Tzvi Tzilker this morning and expressed his condolences and sorrow over the terrorist attack which he described as a criminal act.

Ashdod and Gaza City have recently initiated ties within the framework of the sea port network called Sealink. The mayor of Gaza was scheduled to visit Ashdod tomorrow but the visit was put off as a result of the terrorist attack.

Security Head al-Rujub Interviewed

TA2108192695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Jibril al-Rujub, head of Palestinian Preventive Security Service in the West Bank, by Dan Margalit, MA'ARIV commentator Yosef Lapid, and HA'ARETZ correspondent Amnon Dankner; place not given; from the weekly "Popolitiqa" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Margalit] Shalom, Jibril al-Rujub.

[Al-Rujub] Shalom to you.

[Margalit] The Palestinian reaction to the murders in Jerusalem today said that the murders attack the peace process and your people Do the Palestinians feel any sense of responsibility in the context of the fact that you are present in Jerusalem, and perhaps could have prevented the act?

[Al-Rujub] Listen, first of all we condemn the attack which took place today and we view it as an attack on us and on our interests. I think the aim of those who perpetrated the attack was not only to kill Jews, but also to kill the process which we hope will lead us to coexistence with our Israeli neighbors.

[Margalit] Do you feel the Palestinians, owing to their presence in Jerusalem — on which the government has been turning a blind eye contrary to the stands of the mayor and the opposition — could possibly prevent or reduce this terrorism?

[Al-Rujub] Listen, as head of the Palestinian General Security Services, it is my job to prevent any terrorist attack, which can harm the peace process. We have made a pledge to achieve peace for ourselves and our Israeli neighbors.

[Margalit] Then why did you not prevent this morning's event?

[Al-Rujub] Listen, as you know, Jerusalem and most of the West Bank are controlled by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. I am responsible for Jericho, and ever since I took charge of Jericho, not a single shot was fired there, and no one planned any attacks against Israelis from Jericho. I think Israelis are safer in Jericho than in Tel Aviv.

[Lapid] Perhaps Jerusalem should be also handed over to your people, and then there will be no attacks in Jerusalem.

[Al-Rujub] Listen, there are 170,000 Palestinians in East Jerusalem — more than the total number of settlers scattered throughout the West Bank. They do not want Mr. Olmert or the Israeli occupation. They want to live in peace with you.

[Dankner] Mr. al-Rujub, they say your people do control East Jerusalem, and we have heard as much from the mayor. Does your failure to prevent today's attack mean you are not very interested in preventing attacks in Jerusalem?

[Al-Rujub] First of all, you know we do not operate in East Jerusalem. It is out of bounds for us. The mayor is trying to make political gains with his propaganda. We have made and will make every effort to stop the bloodshed. I am in Elat right now for the purpose of achieving peace with the Israelis. I think you and us, we have no choice but to live together. For us it is a matter of principle.

Gaza Fatah Movement Denounces Attack

JN2108164895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Fatah Movement in the Gaza Strip has issued a statement saying that the movement strongly condemns the bombing of a bus in Jerusalem that killed and wounded innocent civilians. The movement stresses that those who carry out acts of violence want to kill the peace process, which is an

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objective way to achieve peace among all peoples of the region.

Our correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid said the statement stresses that such acts of violence do not serve anybody except extremists, who want and work to increase hatred between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples. In its statement, the Fatah Movement urged all peace-loving forces from both peoples to push forward with the peace process in order to deal a decisive and strong blow to the plans of the extremists, who want the Palestinian people to to suffer further violence and hatred.

Shots Fired at Home of Army Intelligence Chief

TA1908115895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Palestinian Police in Gaza say last night shots were fired at the home of General Musa 'Arafat, the head of Palestinian army intelligence. No one was hurt, and no damage was caused. Sources said the shooting was by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] men, following the capture of three members of the military wing yesterday at al-Shaykh Radwan. Gen. 'Arafat is known for his firm action against Hamas in the Gaza area.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 19 August identifies the third Hamas member who turned himself in to the Palestinian Police in Gaza on 18 August as "Wa'id Nassar, the Hamas member suspected of planning a suicide attack in Tel Aviv. It was due to this information that Palestinian laborers were not allowed to cross into Israel."]

General Reaffirms Commitment to Peace

TA1908143995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Police will not allow Muslim fanatics to smash the peace process with Israel, even it this entails the loss of human lives, General Musa 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian Police intelligence service, stated in Gaza.

Gen. 'Arafat added that the Palestinian Authority had so far acted very patiently but that it could no longer act this way. The Palestinian forces will not allow anybody to torpedo the peace process, even if this entails the loss of human lives, he said.

Musa 'Arafat noted that the three Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members arrested yesterday were the fugitives Wa'il Nassar, Yasir Abu-Husayn, and 'Awwad Silmi. The chase after them lasted 11 days, following a tip that they were planning a suicide attack in Israel. Last night a few shots were fired at Musa 'Arafat's home.

'Arafat on Washington Accord; No Invitation to Signing

NC2008120395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Aug (MENA)—The Palestinian president has said that no one has invited him to attend the signing ceremony of the Israeli-Palestinian Agreement slated to be held in Washington in September. 'Arafat said that an invitation would be worthless unless all the points currently disputed with the Israeli side are resolved. He said that attending the signing ceremony depends on the resolution of such disputes.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I published today, the Palestinian president said the points of dispute between the Israeli and Palestinian sides have recently increased. He noted that the issues of water and security in Hebron and many other West Bank towns remain the subject of fierce dispute, which throws into question all the dates proposed for signing new agreements.

The Palestinian president added that Israel commits daily violations of many points in the Oslo accord, threatening the peace process and portending danger.

'Arafat Interviewed on Jerusalem, Financial Aid

NC2008063695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Aug (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has praised the role and efforts of President Husni Mubarak, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, and Egyptian experts in their assistance during the talks on every level. He said they are doing so in support of the Palestinian position and for the sake of achieving peace.

In a statement to representatives of the Egyptian papers, published by AL-AKHBAR and AL-WAFD today, 'Arafat said Israel's threats to close Orient House, the Palestinian representation headquarters in Jerusalem, constitutes a clear and blatant violation. He noted that any harm that befalls the Palestinian establishments in Jerusalem or the Christian and Islamic holy centers will harm the peace process.

But the Palestinian president expressed the conviction that the Israeli Government will not embark on such a serious measure, because Israel knows the reaction will not be indulged on the popular, official, political, or religious level. 'Arafat said that under such circumstances Arab coordination is a must and should be similar to

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the Arab League's decision following the confiscation of Palestinian land in Jerusalem.

In his statement 'Arafat said no progress has been made in the Palestinian-Israeli talks over the points of dispute regarding completing the implementation of the Oslo accord, slated to be signed in Washington on 5 September. He said he expects many problems to crop up during the talks. The Palestinian president warned that Palestinian patience is running out.

Asked about the opponents of the Oslo accord, 'Arafat said there are various interpretations of the accord in the Palestinian arena. We respect such interpretations but we expect the opposition to respect the opinion of the majority, 'Arafat added.

'Arafat said the Palestinian Authority is currently implementing the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council in 1974, when it decided to establish a Palestinian authority on any piece of land that is liberated or from which the Israelis withdraw.

'Arafat denounced the failure of donor states to implement many of their pledges. He said: Had it not been for the small Palestinian businessmen, we would have faced catastrophe. 'Arafat pointed out: The Israelis destroyed the infrastructure of Gaza before they handed it over to us. The Israelis dismantled the railways and almost destroyed everything, even the doors, windows, street lamps, and water faucets.

'Arafat on Tunis Meetings, Israel, Other Issues

JN2008190695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat made a comprehensive statement to today's AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH daily in which he dealt with the results of the recent meetings in Tunis and his meetings with Shim'on Peres in Taba. The president also tackled the Hebron issue, which constitutes an important element in the arrangements and preparations for the transitional stage. President Yasir 'Arafat asserted that security is a basic element in building a state and said that we are actually launching a cultural, scientific, and social revolution in all walks of life.

In his statement to AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH, President Yasir 'Arafat said that the recent meetings in Tunis were the most fruitful of all because of the sense of responsibility that prevailed and because they rose to the level of threats to our people. The meetings were characterized by frankness, and tackled details of the current negotiations with Israel in Cairo, Alexandria, Elat, and Taba.

President Yasir 'Arafat said that the PLO Executive Committee made several recommendations in its capacity as the point of reference of the National Authority [NA], and discussed several important national issues related to the economy, requirements of daily life, security situation, the work of the various ministries in the authority, and the problems we are facing on the international level.

In his statement to AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH, the president added that the Jerusalem issue was focused on during the negotiations because Palestinian institutions and the Islamic and Christian holy shrines are endangered. The talks, he said, also tackled the Declaration of Principles agreement, the confiscation of lands, and threats posed by the settlers in the West Bank.

On the city of Hebron, the president said that it is one of the six principal cities stipulated in the Oslo accord. Therefore, he said, there should be a withdrawal from it during the first redeployment process and before the elections. The final status of Jerusalem, he added, was postponed until the beginning of the sixth year.

Referring with pride to the Palestinian negotiating delegation, the president said it is a bright spot in Palestinian action and negotiations. He said that this has prompted the PLO Executive Committee to extend a special greeting of appreciation for the delegation's work and efforts.

Regarding future plans, especially since the NA is about to extend its authority to the West Bank, the president said that this situation has created great responsibilities for the NA. He added that visits to our area by U.S. Vice President Al Gor, British Prime Minister John Major, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, the European Troika, and other leaders and officials of all levels were not only political events but they led to economic and cultural agreements and to the training of our security and police organs in order to build a strong state on all levels.

States are not built only by money, but also by actions, men, and qualified cadres that are capable of carrying out their duties. The prophet, God's prayer and peace be upon him, called this a greater jihad. The problems and confusion that we have faced, he said, are a result of the occupation and restoring rhythm in all walks of life is not easy for any state in the world, especially those states that face difficult circumstances like ours.

Regarding shortcomings in some ministries, President Yasir 'Arafat said: It is true that there are some shortcomings. But I notice that these shortcomings are being magnified. Therefore, we should be cautious because he who works will make mistakes, especially

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since we are carrying out duties that are new to many of our comrades, namely, the building of a state out of the completely ruined infrastructure that was left to us by the occupation.

President Yasir 'Arafat added: I am following up every detail, and I am not living in an ivory tower. We are carrying out construction work, and we need all our energy to entrench the bases of our entity.

Regarding our Arab relations, he said that the building of a Palestinian state that has begun in the homeland constitutes a strategic change on the Arab map, that we are entering the world with a vigorous Palestinian will, and that we maintain good and brotherly relations with all the Gulf countries except Kuwait. This is, however, is a Kuwaiti position rather than a Palestinian one.

Concluding his statement to AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH, President Yasir 'Arafat reaffirmed that the PLO is the point of reference of the NA. He said that all refugees will be able to return to the homeland and that an expatriate has the right to citizenship, nationality, and work and also has the right to be buried in the homeland.

'Arafat Warns of Reaction If Orient House Closed

JN2108062095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat said that Palestinian reaction to any harm inflicted on the Plaestinian institutions in Jerusalem or the holy shrines will not be mild. He added that the Israeli threats to close Orient House is a blatant violation jeopardizing the peace process. We will have our own reaction, he said.

President 'Arafat ruled out an Israeli closure of Orient House, but said Israel might resort to harassment.

Kanafani: Israeli Siege Violation of Agreements

JN1908191695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, has asserted that the National Authority will not allow the Israeli extremists or those who jeopardize the Palestinian people's security, future, and freedom to do anything that could negatively affect the homeland and the citizens.

In statements today carried by some news media, Kanafani denied that acts of violence took place between the citizens and members of the police in Gaza. Kanafani said the Palestinian Authority has proven its ability to control the situation in the part of the homeland that is under its jurisdiction.

Marwan Kanafani also stressed that the Israeli military siege imposed on the Gaza Strip is a flagrant violation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreements.

Quray' Discusses Jerusalem, Hebron Issues

NC2008074595 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 20 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', economy minister in the Palestinian Authority, in Jericho, by 'Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue from Afar" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] First, let us hear about Israel's closure of Orient House [in Jerusalem] and the al-Ibrahimi Mosque [in Hebron] in the face of the Palestinians.

[Quray'] Doubtless any measure that seeks to alter existing conditions, both in connection with the negotiations over the permanent status, pertaining to Jerusalem and the establishments inside it, or the negotiations over the interim phase, do not benefit the peace process and will cause damage, the extent of which can only be revealed in time. We denounce and are astonished by the policies that Israel tries to implement in Jerusalem in connection with Orient House or other economic, social, cultural, scientific, and educational centers. Regarding the al-Ibrahimi Mosque, the Hebron affair is one of the most serious issues in the negotiations over the interim phase. Our position is clear, well-known, and unambiguous. Hebron is a Palestinian city like the others and therefore Israeli forces must be redeployed outside it and Palestinian forces must take their place. What we have accepted is only this: We have agreed to exceptional security measures in Hebron's old city area. Any other measures are unacceptable and will not help reach an agreement. The al-Ibrahimi Mosque is a very sensitive issue for us. The mosque is one of the most important Islamic shrines and we cannot allow the continuing flouting of Muslim feelings about it.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] In addition to the main issue of Jerusalem, discussion of which has been postponed until later, more than one question is raised about Hebron. You have led the Palestinian delegation to the Elat negotiations with the Israelis. Could you tell us what has been achieved? What is the significance of Israel's measures following the Elat talks?

[Quray'] As I have told you, the Hebron issue is not new. It was discussed at the UN Security Council after the massacre of Palestinian worshippers in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque and in connection with many other incidents. In the negotiations over the interim phase agreement, Hebron has an important place. As I told

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you, our position is well known. This position was discussed during the meeting between President 'Arafat and the Israeli foreign minister in the presence of His Excellency President Mubarak in Alexandria. The Hebron issue was raised at that meeting. Our position was made clear then but Israel presented a loose, vague position that cannot lead to a solution. This issue remains a major obstacle to an agreement. We will start a new round of negotiations, hoping that the Israeli delegation will offer a more realistic and flexible stance so that an agreement can be reached.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] So this is the spirit with which you will be joining the negotiations with the Israeli side following Rabin's announcement that Israel is committed to its occupation of Jerusalem and its decision to allow the Jews to enter the al-Aqsa Mosque and close down the Orient House and the al- Ibrahimi Mosque?

[Quray'] We entered the negotiations when Israel was saying that the West Bank is part of it and that Gaza is part of greater Israel. Negotiations were also held in the past when Israel was discussing extending its state from the Nile to the Euphrates. These things always change. Israel is now the one relinquishing former stances. It is very regrettable that Israel has become hostage to some of these stances, such as the issue of Jerusalem. When talks touch on Jerusalem we will find the way to assert and achieve our rights. We have seen this happen gradually in Israel's position with regard to the interim stage.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] You have held intensive negotiations with Israel. You are now heading the Palestinian delegation to the Elat negotiations. In light of the negotiations that have been held, when can we say that the second part of your agreement with Israel will be implemented?

[Quray'] We expect the next week to be decisive for the negotiations. We expect we will note some achievements, which are expected by our masses. This, of course, depends on the Israeli side bringing with it positions that are more realistic than those of the past. There has been progress in several fields, such as in the transfer of civilian powers. There has also been progress regarding the security agreement and the redeployment of forces. But the basic issue is still Hebron. If the issue of the Jews who live in Hebron temporarily is the exception, security arrangements could be worked out. But if Hebron is the exception this will make it impossible to reach an agreement on this issue. There is also progress concerning other parts of the aspects of this agreement. We will join the negotiations with a big delegation. The Palestinian delegation will be made up of 90 members and so will the Israeli delegation in a bid to discuss all the topics and form working teams and committees to explore where we stand and where they stand so that we can draft the agreement.

If we achieve a serious accord next week, the following week will be used for a final redrafting so that we can present things to the higher leaderships later.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you.

[Quray'] You are welcome.

'Arafat Chairs Weekly Cabinet Meeting in Gaza

Quray' Comments on Meeting

JN1908120195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Aug 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza; from the "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting of the National Authority's Council of Ministers ended a short while ago under President Yasir 'Arafat. It was held at the Presidency in Gaza this morning.

Following the meeting, Ahmad Quray', minister of trade, industry, and economy, stated that the Council discussed the results of the recent round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles, which was held in Elat.

The Council also addressed the issues which will be discussed in the coming round of talks. Quray' asserted that in the coming round of negotiations they will focus on all civil issues. Security arrangements will also be discussed. He pointed out that the outstanding issues will be referred to the highest leaderships on both sides; namely, President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Quray' expressed hope that the Palestinian and Israeli sides will end discussing all issues in the coming round of talks, which will begin on Saturday.

On his part, Labor Minister Dr. Samir Ghawshah pointed out that differences still exist on the most prominent issues, particularly Hebron, water, and the release of the Palestinian prisoners and detainess in addition to some civil powers.

Ghawshah asserted that the Council agreed to continuing the negotiations on various issues. On the possibility of signing an agreement on implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles, Dr. Ghawshah said: If the Israeli position continues to procrastinate, we believe more time will be needed.

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Al-Nashashibi Remarks on Session

JN1908141195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Aug 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The meeting of the National Authority's Council of Ministers which was held at the Presidency in Gaza today under President Yasir 'Arafat focussed on developments of the latest round of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations that were held in Elat. The cabinet also discussed the issues that will be brought up during the next round of talks, which is due to begin in Elat tomorrow. [passage omitted]

On his part, Finance Minister Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi said the latest negotiations have realized very modest achievements. He said the substantial issues need further negotiations, especially redeployment in zone C which deals with settlements, Israeli camps, and the Jordan Valley, and also regarding Hebron, the elections, in addition to water and electricity.

Al-Nashashibi added that there are issues that cannot be resolved at these negotiations and that require a political decision. As for signing a final agreement on the second stage of the Declaration of Principles, al-Nashashibi said this depends on the next meeting between President 'Arafat and Rabin, which is linked to progress in the coming negotiations between the two sides. The finance minister rejected the closure of Hebron by the Israeli Government.

Regarding the Israeli measures against the Palestinian establishments in Jerusalem, the cabinet said Israel should not make any move against these establishments which perform educational, health, cultural, and services activities.

The cabinet stressed that the military siege imposed on Gaza Strip should be lifted.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim Comments

JN1908201195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Authority's Council of Ministers held its weekly session at the Presidency in Gaza today under President Yasir 'Arafat. Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidency said the council discussed a report presented by President 'Arafat on the PLO Executive Committee meetings in Tunis on 15 and 16 August. The council also discussed the Executive Committee's affirmation of the need to take a decisive stance toward the results of the negotiations, saying that the agreement with Israel must be comprehensive and must include all aspects of the transitional phase, including the city of Hebron and the redeployment of the occupation army in the city, just like the other Palestinian cities.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim added that the Palestinian negotiating team stressed its strong adherence to the positions decided for the negotiations, especially regarding the issues of Hebron, waters, prisoners, deportees, and elections in occupied Jerusalem. The secretary general of the Presidency further stressed that the council debated the Palestinian delegation's plan of action for the next round of negotiations, which will start tomorrow. The round will discuss finalizing all negotiations on civilian authorities, the legal annex, economic cooperation, and finalizing the formula of the general agreement and the appendices of the Cairo Agreement, prisoners, detainees, and deportees.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said the council commended the efforts of the negotiating team and demanded that the Israeli Government determine its position on the issues of the city of Hebron, waters, and the other outstanding issues. He asserted that if the Israeli side removes the obstacles it has created, then the general agreement, in all its components, will be ready for a final reading next week, in the hope that the final formula of the agreement will be finalized after endorsing it by the Palestinian and Israeli political leaders.

The secretary general of the Presidency in the National Authority added that the National Authority's Council of Ministers debated a report presented by President Yasir 'Arafat on the stable security situation in the National Authority areas, despite the fact that certain quarters from the Palestinian and Israeli sides are trying to prevent the National Authority from extending its control over other areas of the West Bank. Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said the council debated a report on negotiations with Israel regarding the elections and agreement on the international monitoring of the presidential and legislative elections. The EU countries should act as a general coordinator for international monitoring, with the participation of the United Nations, the United States, Russia, Canada, Japan, Norway, Egypt, Jordan, the Organization of Islamic Conference, the Organization of African Unity, and the Non-Aligned Movement. The council also discussed the onslaught against Palestinian national institutions in occupied Jerusalem. It expressed its full rejection of any Israeli measure that deals with any Palestinian establishment in the holy city.

The National Authority's Council of Ministers urged the Israeli Government to completely halt settler attacks on the institutions, lives, and interests, of the citizens. The council also discussed the measures taken by the Libyan

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Government, which expelled Palestinian citizens in Libya, and demanded that these unwarranted measures be stopped, since they do not serve the noble pan-Arab objectives for which Libya is struggling.

Assassination Bid Reported Against 'Arafat Opponent

TA2008125695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There was an assassination attempt against one of 'Arafat's opponents and critics, 'Abd-al-Fattah Qasim, a lecturer at al-Najah University. He sustained medium injuries and was hospitalized. Qasim had recently sharply attacked the human rights policy in the autonomy areas. This is reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem.

Security Head al-Rujub Reportedly Bans AL-QUDS

TA1908142295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The East Jerusalem newspaper AL-QUDS did not appear this morning, apparently after members of Jibril al-Rujub's Preventive Security Service threatened the paper's owners on the phone. Al-Rujub's men banned them from printing the paper in the wake of an article published this week in which PLO leader Faruq Qaddumi lashed out at the political process.

Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that at midnight last night the editors of AL-QUDS phoned several foreign journalists and invited them to witness the arrival of al-Rujub's men in the editorial board offices in the Qalandiyah neighborhood in northern Jerusalem. The journalists, as well as a police patrol car, arrived on the scene, but al-Rujub's men did not turn up. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that in the end the paper did not appear this morning and that the owners said this was due to technical reasons.

Settlers Storm al-Aqsa; al-Husayni on Israeli 'Campaign'

JN2008155595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Aug 95

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd-Rabbuh in Jerusalem]

[FBIS Translated Text] Six Jewish settlers stormed the al-Aqsa Mosque from the Huttah gate today. They tried to perform their own prayers and religious rites in the mosque's courtyards. However, the mosque guards and Muslim worshipers confronted them and expelled them following a fist-fight between the two sides.

A meeting is currently under way at the office of al-Aqsa Mosque Director Shaykh Muhammad Husayn between the Awqaf officials and a number of Israeli police officers to discuss this new attack and its serious dimensions.

In another development, a news conference was held at Orient House at 1000 today. Faysal al-Husayni, the National Authority's official in charge of the Jerusalem file, Lawyer and journalist Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, participated in the news conference.

Al-Husayni warned of the Israeli campaign against Jerusalem institutions, and considered it a violation of the Oslo agreement and the document of commitment Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres sent to his Norwegian counterpart [Johan Jorgen] Holst, in which Israel pledged to maintain the Palestinian institutions which used to exist in Jerusalem before the Oslo agreement, and to support their role.

Al-Husayni added: This Israeli campaign, which is aimed at weakening the Palestinians in Jerusalem, will not only harm the Palestinian community in the holy city, but will also destroy the entire peace process. Al-Husayni warned against settlers' actions in the city, and of giving them a free hand in it.

Lawyer and journalist Ziyad Abu-Zayyad criticized the Israeli measures in the holy city, and drew attention to the agreement which obligates the Palestinian and Israeli sides to maintain the city's institutions which were operational before and after the Oslo agreement.

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi denounced these measures, and said that they do not serve the peace process in the region.

Acceleration of Peace Process Urged To Curb Violence

JN2108160795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1317 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Station commentary by the political editor of the PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY, WAFA: "Reciprocal Dates of Violence"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli extremists yesterday committed violent and terrorist acts when they stormed the al-Aqsa Mosque courtyard and clashed with Palestinian worshipers who were in the vicinity of the mosque. Two days ago, ultra-orthodox Jews attacked Orient House and Palestinian passers-by. Three days ago, settlers pelted cars with stones and brandished their weapons in the faces of passers-by. Today, other extremists committed a criminal and violent act when they bombed an Israeli bus loaded with safe and innocent

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civilians. Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and [Yitzhaq] Rabin, who make similar remarks on all such occasions, condemned the operation and voiced sadness. They stressed that they will not allow terrorists on both fronts to torpedo the peace process and that after each operation, they emerge more determined to continue the peace process.

How can we stop all this irrational violence — since we have accepted peace as our first, decisive, and last option? We do not believe there is any way other except to accelerate the peace process. Only this can defuse violence on both fronts. It can check bigotry and madness and establish an irreversible mechanism of coexistence where penetration cannot be catastrophic or tremendous.

It is our belief that the massive obstacles placed along the road of the peace process provide an ideal atmosphere and a hotbed for breeding terrorism on both fronts. For example, Hebron, which is outside the controversy in the first place, cannot be excluded from the plan of withdrawal, distribution, and redeployment. A rash action of this kind would unleash the ambitions of Israeli settlers and extremists, inflame their desires, and incite them to commit further violence and terrorism, usurp lands, and build more houses thereon. Such an action would spark frustration and indignation among Palestinians and prompt reactions that are filled with the desire for violent and terrorist revenge. Thus things would fluctuate from one action to another and would be governed by serious reactions that would shake the foundations of the peace process.

We are saying this, while actions and reactions are still at their peak, so that all would be aware of the situation that must prevail, that is, establishing a solid peace invulnerable to possible irrational actions by whatever party. Such a peace cannot be achieved if it is not based on foundations that ensure that it will be a perfectly equal and just peace.

There is no use in clinging to the illusion of excluding Hebron in the hope of making gains on the Jerusalem front, for example, or to win time to achieve what is already illegal, like building circuit roads and distracting attention from the construction of more houses in the settlements that are established on occupied Palestinian land.

Peace is peace. Lack of seriousness and maneuvers in the efforts leading to it will make the agreement of extremists on the two fronts a growing certainty that would shake the very roots of the peace process and may even uproot it.

PNC Deputy Speaker: Charter 'Not Anyone's Property'

JN2108105195 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Aug 95 p 26

[Report by Kamal Zakarinah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Taysir Qub'ah, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has said that the Palestinian National Charter is not anyone's property and that it is the charter of the Palestinian people inside and outside the Palestinian territorie.

In a short statement to AL-DUSTUR, he added that the only body authorized to amend the charter is the PNC, which will convene in the event of establishing an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. He said that the PNC is also free to amend the charter with the majority of two thirds of its members.

He demanded Yitzhaq Rabin to amend the charters of the Zionist movement. He also demanded that the Israeli Knesset cancel its decisions to annex Palestinian territories before demanding the amendment of the Palestinian National Charter.

'Arafat Reactivates Special Military Courts in Gaza

TA2208053495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has ordered the special military court he established in the Gaza Strip to resume activity. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the special military tribunal yesterday sentenced Rabi' Zaynu to five and a half years in prison, while Muhammad Abu-Hamid and Anis Abu-Jazzar were sentenced to three and a half years in prison. The three men were convicted of planning to hurl explosive charges at military patrols inside the autonomous areas. The three men belong to George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

PFLP, DFLP Members Want To Return

TA1808074595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, a PFLP leader, says that the PFLP leadership, headed by Dr. George Habash, wants to come to the autonomy area despite its opposition to the Oslo agreement.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Nayif Hawatimah's DFLP also recently submitted a request to Yasir 'Arafat to allow the return of 20 senior DFLP activists.

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In reaction, security sources in Israel say there is no change in the Israeli position which says opponents of the Oslo Accords who act to foil it will not be allowed to enter the autonomy.

The Palestinian Authority [PA] has decided to allow AL-ISTIQLAL, the Islamic Jihad's organ, to reopen following an 11-day closure due to criticism it leveled at the PA. This was announced by 'Ala' al-Saftawi, the paper's editor.

On the other hand, it was decided that the ban on AL-WATAN, the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] organ, will remain in place. This was reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem.

Radio Criticizes Israeli Closure of Territories

JN2008204395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1815 GMT 20 Aug 95

[Article by the political editor of the Palestinian News Agency, WAFA: "Peace Does Not Pass Through Closed Roads"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The following questions are being asked in the Palestinian street: Why do the Israelis close the crossing points? Is closure a policy and an apparent right of the Israeli Government? Why does the Palestinian Authority remain patient? Is it true that the closure, this time, won the approval of the National Authority?

These questions are legitimate and necessary, so the Palestinian man in the street will know the facts and will not be confused. What happened the day before yesterday, in terms of storming a place housing the one accused of recording a videocassette on carrying out a suicide operation, calls for clarification in order to remove misunderstanding and confusion.

First: We would like to officially explain that the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] cannot agree with Israel on imposing closure on itself. The Authority basically rejects such a principle regardless of its reasons and justifications.

Under all circumstances, the PNA believes that the Israelis do not have the right to resort to such methods which imply collective punishment of its people and which also conflict with the Palestinians rights to free movement. These methods also conflict with the peace process which is based on enabling the Palestinian people to build their national authority and establish contacts between the sons of the one Palestinian homeland.

The National Authority's patience is due to the fact that it would like to give an opportunity for mutual understanding on matters, so there will not be a great many complaints and objections. However, the Authority cannot maintain this attitude if Israel continues its policy.

Second: By all standards, the closure is a detestable decision which is against the promotion of the peace process. In order not to entrench the precedent of closure, stopping the closures is now a pressing issue, so the economic, political, social, and other mechanisms will be organized, and so the peace process will meet with optimism and stability.

Third: The Israeli Government and the United States should clearly understand that the PNA is not responsible for the security of each Jew and every Israeli and that the concept of security cannot endure the Israeli obsession to provide security for all individuals.

The Oslo agreement and concept provide for cooperation between the National Authority and the Israeli Government to prevent terrorist attacks on both fronts and sides and not only on one front. The Palestinians, too, have been subjected to terrorist operations. The latest such operation was carried out by settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank. What measure does this agreement grant to the Authority in return for the closure? What measures does the Authority possess to face the feverish religious fanaticism of settlers?

Peace cannot be established on firm bases unless it is just, equal, and capable of addressing all cases under all circumstances with the same standards.

Four: It is important to explain to our people that the option of peace has its own repercussions and responsibilities, that the tendency toward peace cannot be affected by pistols and explosives, and that the National Authority has the responsibility of thwarting anything that seeks to topple the peace option which was accepted by our Palestinian people. What happened the day before yesterday in terms of storming and preventing a suicide operation was not only designed to safeguard the peace process but also to protect the Palestinian individual from futile and useless objectives and results.

Moreover, everyone must understand that we are all walking a tightrope, so balance is not guaranteed. The closure will not yield any result because it is provocative, harmful, and motivates departure from self-restraint.

We all should walk on the paved road in broad daylight, so no one will be subjected to danger. Paved roads where there is no reckless veto [preceding word in English] against Hebron, no looting of water, and no closure, are the roads that lead to peace. These roads will also prevent suicide or at least curb it.

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Algeria

Wounded LE MATIN Journalist Dies in Hospital

LD2108135295 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A security statement issued today announced that Oudjeni Ameur, a journalist for the daily LE MATIN, was the target of an armed attack 20 August at 1830 hours.

The journalist died this morning at Ain-Nadja hospital as result of serious wounds, LE MATIN said. [passage omitted]

First Round of Presidential Elections Set 16 Nov

LD1808143495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The first round of the presidential elections will be on 16 November. The second round will be one month after the first. This was announced by Mihoubi Mihoub, diplomatic adviser and presidential spokesman, at a news conference held today at the state presidency.

Mihoubi explained that the collection of individual signatures would begin 20 August and would last for 40 days. During those 40 days each candidate will have to collect 75,000 signatures supporting their nomination.

As for the election campaign, the spokesman explained that it would begin 22 October and end 13 November. Mihoubi added that the last date for lodging nominations was 2 October. [passage omitted]

FLN Secretary Demands Preelection 'Dialogue'

JN2108201095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Political violence continues in Algeria. Assassinations of public figures are on the increase. An Algerian journalist who was shot by Armed Islamists yesterday succumbed to his injuries today. The presidential election crisis is rife in the Algerian arena now that the Algerian authorities have fixed 16 November as an election date.

On the issue of the current dialogue in Algeria and the election, Sarah Salamah interviewed Abedlhamid Mehri, secretary general of the Algerian National Liberation Front party.

[Begin recording] [Mehri] The authorities began consultations and not a substantive dialogue. It began consultations to implement a decision which it made unilaterally; namely, holding presidential election and postponing a definitive solution for the crisis until later, until after the election. In our opinion, the election will not be genuine unless it is held in peaceful circumstances, in an atmosphere of security and constitutional freedom for all the citizens.

[Salamah] What is your concept of the genuine dialogue which in your view should begin? What are the conditions for such a dialogue to begin?

[Mehri] We have no conditions but we say that a genuine dialogue brings together all parties, deals with all issues, and reaches agreed on solutions. This dialogue will also agree on the methods of the application of solutions in a collective manner. For us, this is the genuine dialogue.

[Salamah] If you are not able to achieve such a thing before the election, will you participate in the election or boycott it?

[Mehri] Election without the restoration of peace and without agreement on common political ground means that the election will be another occasion and a means of continuing the armed confrontations. It will be an emphasis and perpetuation of the current policy. Since we have not agreed on another national policy that will take into consideration the desire of the people to restore peace and the constitutional institutions, then we will continue to implement the policy which the authorities have been following. This also means that the opposition parties will only provide a cover for this. [end recording]

Party of Renewal Leader Announces Candidacy

LD2008213195 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The person to announce his nomination as a candidate in the upcoming presidential elections was Noureddine Boukrouh, the leader of the Algerian Party for Renewal. This announcement came this afternoon in front of national and international correspondents at the Aurassi hotel.

[Begin Boukrouh recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

A statement to the Algerian people.

Algerian people, with overwhelmed heart, I, Noureddine Boukrouh — the son of independent Algeria, declare before you here, my great honor of nominating myself to the responsibility of high office in my country.

This decision appeared to me a duty and obligation at a time when injured and resisting Algeria had been calling: Help! Help!. However, some people are are still banking on its death and searching for any self-interest in it. Others are sitting here or there waiting for the transformations so that they proceed in the direction of the wind.

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The people are demanding a stop to anything that causes their psychological and physical suffering. They are demanding a new Algeria, while there are some who want to prevent this or delay it for an indefinite time.

Those who can help the people to build that Algeria must understand and must make a move before it is too late. I am one of those people and I am from among you and with you. I am not proposing myself for assuming a high office, but I present to you a vision, a project, and solutions that tend to allow Algeria — sound and healthy God willing — to enter the 21st century. I will present this project to all the Algerian people in order that they peruse it and debate it with me in the coming days.

I am not a man of a corrupted and misleading past. I am not a man of crisis, nor did I participate in it. I am not a man who holds grudges and enmity, nor do I have enemies to fight. I would like to be a man of construction and reconciliation. I only want to be a candidate of the Algerian conscience and awareness. My message is: To reform Algeria as best as I can and return it to the true, right, and just path. [passage omitted]

I appeal to you for your support for and full participation in overcoming the crisis, the phase into which we will enter with the presidential elections, God's willing. [passage omitted]

We have to work with determination, relying on competence, intelligence, and the spirit of youth.

The hour has come for the departure of a generation and the coming of a new alternative generation. Here is the opportunity, let us not miss it in order to achieve the transformation with our loyalty to the November principles.

My trust and faith in my country's future are great, therefore, I reiterate the message of renewal to you, my brothers and sisters, and urge you to participate with courage, dignity, and determination in this great building, the building of the second Algerian republic that I propose to you.

Glory to Algeria's martyrs. Long live Algeria.

God's peace and mercy with you. [end recording]

Following the announcement of his candidacy to the presidential elections, Noureddine Boukrouh held a news conference in which he replied to a number of questions put by journalists. Among them a question on the reason behind his candidacy to which he replied: The decision was based on personal conviction, during the election battle he will not rely on parties' coalition, and he will not be a candidate for a political leader, rather he will rely on his program and ideas, he said.

Presidency Spokesman Comments on Elections

LD1808220695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Aug 95

[News conference given by Presidency spokesman Mihoub Mihoubi at the Presidency in Algiers on 18 August — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, and merciful.

Within the framework of the consultations held in the period between 12-17 August, the head of state, Liamine Zeroual, received and discussed with representatives of five political parties and representatives of six national organizations and unions the creation of an independent commission to supervise the elections, and issues related to the elections and their date.

First, with regard to the date for holding the election: The head of state took the opportunity to remind those to whom he met about the efforts the authorities of the transitional phase made since February 1994 to undertake the revival of the national development, the restoration of security, and resolving the political crisis. In this regard the head of state said the following:

At the security level, the combating of terrorism — which is imposed on us by the blind practices of the criminals — is continuing and improving against the bakground of the will of mercy vis-a-vis our sons who were duped and who have since returned to their senses, and with the absolute approval of the entire society have become aware of the real issues.

When referring to the political aspect of the crisis, President Zeroual said: The national dialogue — which, as far as I am concerned is regarded as being a duty as well as a conviction — enjoyed preparatory work and effort which were acknowledged by the Algerian people. As a matter of fact, the presidential election and the election process in general should have been part of a concord which I endeavored to realise in order to halt the violence and to bring about the participation of the entire political class in the running of the transitional phase. Despite the fact that the retention of the political impasse was a deliberate attempt by some, the decision to hold presidential] elections did not prevent my efforts to continue the dialogue in order to enable the political class to respond in an atmosphere of harmony and calm to the people's free choice. But some did not see any use in benefiting from this new opportunity at a time when others, whose number was large, participated in the discussion, a matter which enabled our country to prepare to hold its first pluralistic presidential elections on the basis of an electoral law which has been enriched due to the diversity of points of view.

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In reply to questions and to his interlocutors' comments in connection with the recently circulated rumors on contacts and talks between the authorities and officials of the dissolved party, [Islamic Salvation Front], the head of state categorically denied these allegations. The head of state took this opportunity to remind those present of the framework and the constants which had been defined for the national dialogue. The head of state also discussed the progress made with regard to the preparations for organizing the presidential election, including the important measures that were taken at the security level in order to ensure that the election process would be held in peace and security. The head of state proposed holding the first round of the presidential election on Thursday, 16 November — God willing. [passage omitted]

With regard to the candidates: The final date for depositing nominations with the Constitutional Council is 2 October 1995, and the campaign to collect signatures from individuals will commence on 20 August 1995. Therefore, each candidate will have more than 40 days to collect the required 75,000 signatures as stipulated by the Electoral Law. For this reason, and in reply to those with whom he met, the head of state pointed out that any elector, irrespective of his profession or employment, has the freedom to exercise his right and give his signature to the candidate of his choice.

With regard to the question of completing the process of the presidential election, he pointed out that in accordance with the law, the second round should take place during a period not exceeding one month after the first round, and that the Constitutional Council must declare the final result within a period no more than 10 days after the second round. Thus, the president elect would be sworn in and assume his duties before 31 December 1995.

The majority of the personalities and all the parties and organizations which were received by the head of state agreed that the first round of the presidential election should take place on 16 November 1995. Subsequently, this proposal has been accepted.

Some of those who took part in the dialogue expressed the wish that the presidential election take place in the shadow of a wide political accord. To these people, the head of state renewed his adherence to the national dialogue. [passage omitted] As for the independent national commission to monitor the election, the meetings, which were chaired by the head of state, allowed a widening of the exchange of views with regard to the written replies the participants presented — a resume of which was distributed to all those present. In the course of the exchange of views the participants stressed the importance which this commission assumes, and the need to guarantee the credibility of the election.

President Zeroual recalled the efforts of the state to make the presidential election successful, free and open according to the laws. In this connection the head of state pointed out that the secretaries general of the United Nations, the Arab League, and the OAU have been officially contacted and requested to send their own observers. When referring to the question of the independent national commission to monitor the election, the head of state stressed the following principles, and in this connection pointed out: First, the independent national commission is a special authority necessiated by the political circumstances through which the country is passing. Proceeding from this it will not be a substitute for the administration's legal responsibilities for a neutral organization of the election. Likewise, it will not replace the national establishments with regard to the jurisdictions of the latter vis-a-vis the election, whether the matter concerns the Constitutional Council or the legal establishment.

Second, this independent national commission will be added to the standards of observation and appeal granted by law to the electors and candidates or their representatives.

Third, in order to exercise their political and moral authority, its make-up should enjoy the acceptance of all those concerned, primarily the candidates, because their rights should be protected before anything else. In view of the fact that the opinions of the participants in these consultations were some times divergent with regard to the formation and duties of the independent national commission for monitoring the election, agreement was reached that an action group should prepare a plan that will be accpetable to all participating sides. This group, which will include a representative from each side and representatives of the Presidency, will commence its work on Monday, 21 August; it will complete its task during the same week. The results will be submitted during a meeting to be held before the end of this month between the head of state and the participants in these consultations.

With regard to the state's support for the candidates, the head of state informed the participants that the state — within the framework of respecting the law, and in fairness and within the framework of its duties — will make available financial and security assistance to the candidates who officially declare their candidature.

At the end of the consultations, President Zeroual stated: All those who want to contribute to help preserve and build the homeland and to bolster democracy in Algeria should work in this direction. The presidential elec-

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tion is an occasion for our people to show world public opinion that democracy in Algeria is a promising fact. Therefore, the presidential election, irrespective of its constitutional aim, and within the framework of restoring the legitimacy of the establishments, constitutes a date with history as far as the Algerian people are concerned. Thank you.

Ben Bella on Elections, Political Scene

MM2208100395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Aug 95 p 4

[Interview with former President Ahmed Ben Bella by Nadyah Mahdid in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mahdid] The Algerian presidency has announced 16 November 1995 as the date for the presidential elections. What is your comment?

[Ben Bella] That is not new. The regime decided some time ago to prepare for presidential elections, and it was expected to set a date for these elections. As far as I am concerned, that is not going to change anything. My position is known. I continue to demand that elections be held after a broadly-based, open, and honest dialogue with all political and nonpolitical parties. This is why some parties went to Rome, where we agreed on foundations which we conveyed to the regime. We are making no moves outside these foundations, because we are proceeding from axioms: Neither the regime nor others (the Salvation Front and the armed groups) can resolve the crisis through violence.

Therefore, I do not believe that the factors for the elections are available. They will not lead to any result in the conditions the country is experiencing. There is death, blood, and anxiety every day. And vast areas are under the control of the armed groups.

[Mahdid] But why did the dialogue between the authorities and the parties, whose aim was to secure a solution to stop the bloodshed, not succeed?

[Ben Bella] There was not a dialogue, because I would have no confidence in a dialogue unless it is conducted openly before all the people.

[Mahdid] Do you mean the dialogue conducted secretly between the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] and the authorities?

[Ben Bella] We urged that the dialogue be conducted with the Front. We held a dialogue with the regime for two years, during which I met with Zeroual five times. I respect the man, but I do not support the FIS or the regime. I am a man working for the good of his country. I have no intention of becoming president. I am not going to run for the elections, neither now or in the future. All I want is for Algeria to experience peace once again. I have paid a heavy price. I have dedicated all my life for Algeria. I am 79 now. My only wish is to restore security and peace to Algeria. I believe that the regime is procrastinating and playing games. It does not want to achieve a solution.

[Mahdid] How could it be procrastinating, when it has made numerous appeals for dialogue?

[Ben Bella] Why did the regime not invite the FIS when it was negotiating with the other parties, despite our demand that it take part in the consultations? We told them: The Front will not recognize any dialogue from which it is excluded. So why do they do not include it, as demanded by everyone, instead of holding a dialogue with its leaders individually.

With regard to the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, actually I am not a member of this party. I am neither its leader nor its secretary. But the combatants in it share my ideas, that is all. Frankly, Algeria is my party.

[Mahdid] But why is Mr. Ben Bella introduced as leader of this party?

[Ben Bella] I do not know. Everyone introduces me as the leader, even though the party's leader is Mr. Nakach and its secretary is brother Khaled Ismail.

[Mahdid] Did the FIS not violate the Rome foundations when it engaged in a bilateral dialogue with the authorities?

[Ben Bella] There was no violation. Because we did not decide in Rome that any of the parties to the covenant be prevented from making contacts with the regime, especially when the initiative comes from the authorities. Because closing the door to such initiatives would not serve the country's interests. However, it is unacceptable to conclude any agreement outside the [Rome] group. Because we agreed on a program and proceeded with it responsibly.

I say it openly, and this is my personal view: I had hoped that the two parties would reach an agreement in order to extricate the country from the current situation. But I do not believe that that is possible, because the regime is evading and procrastinating. It is seeking to win over the FIS and dismantle the front formed in Rome.

[Mahdid] Do you have any information about the real causes of the failure of the talks between the two parties?

[Ben Bella] I have not got accurate information. However, the national covenant group is meeting and studying this in Algeria in the presence of Abdelkader

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Boukhamkham and Ali Djedi. But I have not got any information. However, without doubt there is still inside the regime an eradicationist tendency opposed to the FIS' participation and continuing to pursue the eradication policy. We consider this an adventure. The FIS' participation in the election is necessary.

[Mahdid] So you too will not take part in the elections?

[Ben Bella] I will not take part, nor will I run as a candidate.

[Mahdid] What is your condition for participating in the elections?

[Ben Bella] The condition is a credible and effective dialogue.

[Mahdid] All parties talk of the need for credibility, but what do you mean?

[Ben Bella] As far as we are concerned, credibility means that we do not want the regime to organize the elections and request us to participate in them. We cannot tolerate that. The regime should be alongside the other parties: the [political] parties, mass organizations, unions, and so on. A national conference should be held in order to form a coalition government through the consultations at this conference. The regime should participate in it, with the president retaining his powers in order to avert a vacuum. The coalition government in question would prepare for the elections. Then we would determine whether there is a need for legislative elections or presidential elections — which satisfies everyone.

The important thing here is for all the parties participating the conference to take the necessary measures to extinguish the fire of the violence taking place in the country. Anyone who deviates from that framework would be held responsible.

[Mahdid] You attended a national conference in the past, but it failed.

[Ben Bella] That is true. I attended most of the conferences, but they were unsuccessful. In our view, they were just shows rather than conferences. We insist on the Front's participation in any conference grouping the other parties and the regime. Because it is an important part of the equation. This is why I cannot see how there will be elections. It will be ridiculous. I am certain of that. I cannot see how a political official can trake the responsibility of setting a date for the elections.

[Mahdid] More than 70 percent of Algeria's inhabitants are young people. When do you think the political class in Algeria will be willing to retire and pass the torch to the independence generation?

[Ben Bella] We share your view. The doors must be opened widely to a new generation of politicians to take responsibility and run affairs in the country. This is the first aim which we should work to achieve. We must decide that there is a need for change. Frankly, the country needs that kind of change. Because the events we are experiencing did not come from the sky. Grave mistakes were committed, and their accumulation led to a decaying situation, hence the situation tormenting us today. The situation should be tackled prudently and calmly, even if it takes a long time. But a change is necessary. As for people like me, who participated in the liberation revolution, they should withdraw gradually. As you said, Algeria has mature young people and brilliant cadres capable of governing, so they are entitled to make mistakes just as we ourselves made mistakes.

[Mahdid] Why do you not settle in Algeria to continue your political work?

[Ben Bella] After my return, I started my political work from inside the country for eight months, during which I made contacts with the shaykhs [FIS leaders] and Liamine Zeroual. I requested the formation of a committee of wise men whose task is to prepare for the restoration of security and peace in the country — a committee without any certain political orientations. They are talking about it now.

[Mahdid] Whom did you nominate to form that committee?

[Ben Bella] For example, there are Mr. Ben Aila (an impartial man), combatant Mehssas, Maazouzi, Salah Yahiaoui, some shaykhs, and other impartial people.

[Mahdid] Do you fear an attempt on your life if your return to Algeria?

[Ben Bella] Frankly, no. Because I do not know how I am still alive until now. It is a miracle. I participated in two wars and in the liberation war, and I sustained very serious wounds. But God saved my life, and I am now 79. My family is in Algeria. Once I believe that a serious solution has been proposed, I will not hesitate for one single moment to return, even on foot.

[Mahdid] Do you not believe that symbols of the Algerian revolutions are being eliminated, as happened when President Boudiaf was assassinated?

[Ben Bella] True, with the death of Boudiaf only the three of us (Ben Bella, Ait Ahmed, and Ahmed Batat) remain. However, I have no evidence that such an elimination process exists. But public opinion in Algeria stressed that they [not further identified] assassinated Boudiaf.

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Pact Signatory Parties Plan To Meet in Paris in Sep

LD2108143295 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Regarding the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front and the National Liberation Front [FLN], the former single party in Algeria has announced that the parties that signed the National Pact in Rome in January are now envisaging holding a meeting in Paris in September. The announcement was made by the secretary general of the FLN. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Foreign Minister Musa Postpones Jordan Visit

NC2008093295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0914 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that his visit to Jordan has been postponed because Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti is ill.

He said he will make the visit at the end of this week or early next week as soon as the Jordanian minister is well again. Musa originally planned to visit Amman on Monday [21 August].

Paper 'Ridicules' Remarks by Sudan's al-Turabi

NC2208070295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Aug (MENA)—In its editorial tomorrow, AL-AKHBAR ridicules recent statements by Hasan al-Turabi in which he said that the change in Sudan since he took control will place Sudan in the position of global leadership. The paper describes these statements as the latest joke.

AL-AKHBAR writes that al-Turabi went on in his joke to say that the Khartoum government's application of Islamic shari'ah has amazed the outside world.

The paper asks: Who does he want to deceive with this ridiculous statement? Telling such a fib is the biggest insult to the shari'ah, AL-AKHBAR says, adding that this gives ammunition to the enemies of shari'ah who seek to distort the image, principles, and goals of Islam, all of which advocate peace and amity among peoples and states and say that killing an innocent soul without a crime is like killing the entire people.

The paper adds that al-Turabi's claim that he applies Islamic laws means that Islam only exists in the farms in which he nurtures the seeds of terrorism and sends them to neighboring and Islamic states to kill innocent people and terrorize the peaceful citizens. The paper points out that the Islamic laws al-Turabi applies permit murdering whoever rejects his foolish policy or dares to criticize the misery in which the Sudanese people live and let him put his opponents in jail without investigation or trial.

AL-AKHBAR cites the saying: "You may fool all the people some of the time; you can even fool some of the people all the time; but you can't fool all of the people all the time."

Mentally retarded as he is, if al-Turabi thinks he can convince people of the thoughts his sick imagination has given him, he will soon wake up to the alarming reality, namely, that he has become the laughing stock of world media. He and his follower Quffah [reference to a sycophant in an Egyptian play], better known as 'Umar al-Bashir, are providing these media with enough ammunition. All the media have to do is publish such remarks to draw an accurate picture of the creature who forced himself on the Sudanese people at an ill-fated moment, AL-AKHBAR says.

The paper concludes that everything must have an end and that all the signs indicate that the end is near. Al-Turabi's idiocy will speed up this end, AL-AKHBAR says.

Sudanese Government Advised To Reconsider Policies

NC1908203395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Aug (MENA)—AL-AHRAM reaffirms that the Sudanese regime is regionally isolated and internationally renounced after being accused by neighboring states of harboring and training terrorist elements.

The paper writes in its editorial tomorrow, Sunday [20 August], that it is the Sudanese people who pay for the terrorist operations their government conducts. This has led to the severe deterioration in domestic conditions, the paper says.

AL-AHRAM calls on the Sudanese regime to review its domestic and foreign policies, stop interfering in the internal affairs of neighboring states, and to sever relations with the centers of international terrorism so that it can restore its international status.

The paper says the Sudanese Government should reconsider and reread Sudan's history to learn lessons, particularly on the importance of unity in the destiny of the Nile Valley.

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Israeli 'Massacres' of Egyptian POW's Cited

NC2208082595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0555 GMT 22 Aug 95

[Placenames as received]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Aug (MENA)—Some Sinai bedouins have given eyewitness accounts of the massacres the Israeli forces committed against Egyptian POW's during the 1967 war.

Citing these eyewitnesses, the opposition newspaper AL-AHRAR says the Israeli occupation forces killed about 600 Egyptian POW's in the Gharif al-Jimal area. The POW's were brought by land rovers to this area and mowed down by machine guns.

The Israelis killed over 70 Egyptian military men and civilians inside the railroad station buildings in the village of al-Maydan, 23 km west of al-'Arish. They also killed about 300 soldiers and officers in Zaqban Mashar. The POW's were gathered under palm trees. A helicopter landed in the area and a female Israeli soldier machine-gunned the soldiers in an ugly massacre. Local citizens later buried these martyrs in a mass grave.

The Bi'r al-Jurayrat area was the scene of a massacre on the morning of 16 June 1967. Egyptian POW's gathered to drink salt water from the well. A helicopter opened fire at 100 soldiers and officers.

The al-Sama area, west of al-'Arish, was the scene of another incident. The Israelis gathered 400 Egyptian military men and civilians there. A female Israeli soldier with the rank of first lieutenant mowed down the soldiers with her machine gun. Citing its correspondent in al-'Arish, the newspaper says the al-Mashbah area in central Sinai was the scene of a massacre in which 300 POW's were killed.

Eyewitnesses from Sinai who lived there during the war say Israeli soldiers and senior officers assembled over 1,000 Egyptian military men and civilians in the al-Khatmiyah area. They executed all of them and then used bulldozers to bury the martyrs in a mass grave. The Israelis used two half-tracks and a helicopter in the operation, which was commanded by a high-ranking Israeli officer. The al-Dakhl area, situated 35 km east of the Martyr Ahmad Hamdi Tunnel, was the scene of another massacre. Some 400 Egyptian POW's were gathered there and executed.

Eyewitnesses said the al-Jidy Pass witnessed the biggest massacre in contemporary history. The Israelis killed over 1,000 Egyptian military men, machine-gunning them from helicopters, after they gathered them in the area as POW's. Israeli bulldozers buried the martyrs five days after the massacre.

Press Assails Israel Over Killings of POW's

NC2108072795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0520 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Aug (MENA)—Egyptian papers published today strongly attack the Israeli Government and leaders for keeping silent on the massacres that the Israeli army perpetrated against Egyptian POW's in the 1956 and 1967 wars.

The papers stress that the issue has developed from one of concern to the public in Egypt and Israel into a diplomatic problem between the two countries and an explosive political issue in Israel itself.

The papers devote many pages for accounts by Jewish commanders on how the massacres were perpetrated.

Under the headline "Rabin's Impasse," AL-AHRAM says in its editorial that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin cannot remain silent on the massacres committed by his country's army against Egyptian POW's. It says the problem has developed into an explosive political issue, with Egypt, through official contacts, demanding that all facts be disclosed. In light of such facts, the paper adds, Egyptian diplomacy will pursue the issue to the end so that the Israeli criminals of war who perpetrated the crimes can be punished.

AL-AHRAM says Israel will not be able to remove the sin of its killing of defenseless POW's by offering an apology, paying compensations, or bringing the war criminals to court. Israel must abandon its denial of other peoples' rights and live in peace based on equal rights and dignity.

Under the headline "Between the Massacres of POW's and the Martyrs of Dayr Yasin," AL-AKHBAR asks: What did the Israeli generals mean when they made public the massacres they perpetrated against hundreds of Egyptian POW's in the wars of 1956 and 1967 at this particular time, 40 years after the first war and 28 years after the second? Did they want to boast of these butchers who observe no rules or principles for honorable military conduct?

The paper stresses that killing a POW is an unforgivable sin. It says international laws and treaties explain that such crimes are not the responsibility of only the persons who perpetrate them. They constitute a mark of shame on the state to which the perpetrators belong, no matter how many years pass.

Public boasting of such massacres, says the paper, indicates that the commanders who ordered or participated in the killing are not qualified to wear their military uniforms and are even more despicable than the ordinary criminals who kill to steal. The silence of the country

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to which these generals belong shows that this country finds in the killing of hundreds of innocent POW's and in forcing them to dig their own graves nothing to dishonor it or its commanders who participated in this hideous crime by their words or actions.

The paper calls on the media to expose this international and human scandal to show the world the truth about the army in which Israel takes pride and about the perpetrators of these massacres, some of whom still occupy high posts.

The scandal of Israel's killing of Egyptian POW's was the main headline of AL-'ARABI, mouthpiece of the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party. Among the newspaper's other headlines are: "Egypt Calls For the Arrest of 13 Israeli Generals," "Search for Bodies of Israelis in Egypt Stops," and "Military Committee in Sinai To Search for the Bodies of 1,000 Egyptian POW's."

The paper also devotes some of its inside pages for extensive reports on the Israeli crime.

Under the headline "International Court for the Killers," AL-'ARABI calls for bringing the perpetrators of the massacres of the Egyptian POW's before an international court as war criminals. It also calls for national mourning for the hundreds of POW's who were victims of Israeli treachery.

The paper says in its editorial: If that happened to any Israelis, Israel would make a big fuss and demand an international tribunal for the Arabs and for billions of dollars in compensation.

The paper stresses that what happened to Egyptian POW's was more horrible than what happened in Nazi crematoriums. This shows the nature of the Hebrew state, it says. It adds that the crimes Israel has revealed are a very small part of what actually happened, and it urges that the files of those missing in all of Egypt's wars with Israel be reviewed. It is most likely that they all were killed under the same "law of the jungle" that our POW's in the 1956 and 1967 wars were killed, it says.

The Israeli scandal also occupies the front page of AL-WAFD, which speaks for the opposition New Wafd Party. The paper also publishes a lengthy report on the incident accompanied by a picture of a group of Egyptians martyred at the hands of the Israeli forces in the 1956 war.

The paper also publishes views of politicians and lawyers on the possibility of filing lawsuits against the killers, paying immediate compensation to the families of the victims, and barring those involved from visiting Egypt.

Collapse of Iraqi Regime Seen as 'Matter of Time'

NC2108143795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Commentary by Mahmud Marzuq: "Iraq and the Inevitability of Confrontation and Change"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Developments are fast breaking in Baghdad, where the Iraqi regime was surprised by the defection of one of its most important pillars. This defection has hit the last bastion of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, the bastion of kinship and trusted people whom he recruited to be his inner circle's top echelons. The defection caused the Iraqi regime to lose balance and prompted it to carry out large-scale purging operations to get rid of all people related to General Husayn Kamil and his brother.

The confusion that has gripped the regime's military and security echelons could be better understood if we realize the status of Gen. Kamil within the regime. The confusion is so acute that the regime is tottering from exhaustion and a loss of confidence in its people. The Iraqi regime, known for its policy driven tactics, extreme caution, and heavy-handed security measures, now views these same trusted people it recruited with suspicion, apprehension, and mistrust. The Iraqi regime sees ghosts everywhere and expects to find an enemy in every corner. It will have to use new tools to make sure it remains in control.

The strange thing is that since the great escape of Gen. Kamil and his family to Jordan, Iraq has been trying to claim that the defection is of no significance to the regime. Iraqi papers have said the West is betting on a losing horse. According to the regime, the responsibilities which Gen. Kamil assumed were very limited, purely administrative, and will therefore have no effect. These claims are not new for the Iraqi regime. It always uses such claims to justify certain incidents inside Iraq or to turn the attention away from major issues to marginal ones. However, eventually the truth materializes and the false claims used by the Iraqi regime in its handling of various issues are exposed. Proof that these claims are meant for local consumption only is the Iraqi regime's hastening to invite UN envoy Rolf Ekeus, who is responsible for inspecting Iraq's nonconventional weapons, to hand him a new list of weapons which it had previously refused to disclose. In the meantime, the Iraqi regime is undertaking large-scale purges within the Army, the Republican Guard, and other administrative hierarchies. All these signs contradict Iraqi's claims that the defection of Gen.

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Kamil, his family, and a number of senior officials has no effect on the regime. The question is: If it has no effect, then why were these decisions made so fast, why did senior Iraqi officials visit Jordan in an attempt to persuade Gen. Kamil to return, and how could his defection not be important if we know that he has been in charge of Iraq's secret military programs for the past years?

Whatever the real reasons for this great escape may be, all indications point to the severe blow it has dealt to the Iraqi regime. The events show how shaky the Iraqi regime is. It is nothing new to say that the noose is tightening around the Baghdad regime, that its collapse is imminent, and that it is only a matter of time. This time may be long or short depending on the pace of events, but one thing is certain; the regime, shaken by the disturbing defection of one of its pillars, has hastened to deny its own words, lost whatever credibility it had, and volunteered to give away information which it has deliberately withheld for years. It is cheap one-upmanship at a time when everything is liable to crumble.

Columnist Rejects Idea of Military Coup in Iraq

NC2108192295 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 19 Aug 95 p 24

[From "An Idea" column by Mustafa Amin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] I disagree with overthrowing Saddam Husayn with U.S. Tomahawk missiles and the aircraft carrier Roosevelt. I also disagree with removing Saddam by a military coup and prefer to see the dictator ousted by the Iraqi people's will. We have tried military coups before and do not want to replace a dictator with another dictator or a military regime with another military regime. We prefer to see a democratic regime in Iraq in a year rather than a dictatorial regime tomorrow. An autocracy will not be able to resolve Iraq's problems or end its crises and disasters. What can save Iraqi citizen is a democratic regime in the true sense of the word. One under which parties are allowed, free elections are held, and a parliament grouping all trends is elected so that power may not be in the hand of a single party. [passage omitted]

People are not saved by a change of names, but a change in the style of the regime. When this happens a smile will replace a frown, laughter will replace tears, and people will breathe a sigh of relief after having been muffled, dominated, and subjected to the will of a man who perfected the art of torturing, humiliating, and chopping off the ears and tongues of his own people so that they may not hear or speak. Then, the Iraqi people will enjoy their tremendous oil wealth instead of it being stolen, plundered, and distributed among members of the ruling family, henchmen, friends, and hypocrites. The Iraqi people, who now live in poverty, hunger, and deprivation, have not had a chance to enjoy this wealth. We do not want another dictator in Iraq.

AL-AHRAM Comments on Jerusalem Bus Bomb

NC2208062195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0505 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Aug (MENA)—AL-AHRAM says the bombing of the Israeli bus in Jerusalem draws attention yet again to the difficult and complicated course of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and highlights the need to accelerate the talks with greater good faith so that a just and genuine peace between the two sides can be established.

In a commentary in today's issue the paper says the terrorist operations reveal the unreasonable situation of the Palestinian self-rule areas. Israel's imposing a blockade on the West Bank and Gaza after every terrorist operation creates the impression that the entire Palestinian territory is still governed by Israel's will, the paper says.

In such a situation, AL-AHRAM stresses, it is difficult to convince the Palestinian Authority to engage in a serious and genuine act against the extremist, terrorist movements, although the Authority does what it thinks is its duty when it strongly condemns terrorist operations against civilian and military Israelis.

The paper says the peace moves made by the Palestinians and the Israelis are not enough and do not meet the basic requirements of peace. This makes many Palestinians feel that the peace process is not very useful and will not arrive at logical results, the paper says, adding that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations should have moved faster toward the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank and the end of the Israeli presence in Palestinian cities and villages.

The paper emphasizes its condemnation of terrorist operations and calls on Israeli politicians, who suspend the negotiations whenever an explosion occurs, to reconsider their negotiating method, which is based on procrastination and bargaining over minute details. It urges them to look at the strategic aspects of the issue and to take measures or offer the concessions that would really give the Palestinian people a taste of freedom and independence.

Otherwise, AL-AHRAM warns, the cycle of violence will continue to rage despite the horrific losses experienced by the majority of the Palestinian people, who

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depend for their daily bread on job opportunities Israel is forced to provide.

Jerusalem Issue, Peace Process Discussed

NC1808063795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Aug (MENA)—AL-AHRAM writes that Israel still sounds as though it does not want the peace process to be completed or want to reach a level that is acceptable to the concerned parties.

In an editorial today, the newspaper affirms that Israel knows very well that there can be no real peace with the Palestinians—or rather with all Arabs—unless the Jerusalem issue is settled, because this is an essential part of the peace process.

The paper points out in an editorial entitled "Real Peace and the Future of Jerusalem" that Rabin's government knows that restoring rights and the disputed lands will mean nothing to the Palestinians if the status of Jerusalem remains unchanged.

On this, AL-AHRAM refers to the negative Israeli position on Jerusalem, starting with the Israeli Supreme Court decision allowing Jews to enter al-Aqsa Mosque, through Rabin's recent statements on Israel remaining committed to maintaining full control over Jerusalem.

The paper calls on the Palestinian side to quickly put the Jerusalem issue on the negotiations agenda, since the Palestinians cannot be expected to hear Rabin raising the issue in his own way and keep silent.

'Militant' Issues Death Threat Against Editor

NC2108164795 Paris AFP in English 1508 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Aug 21 (AFP) — The militant al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah issued a death threat against the editor-in-chief of an Egyptian opposition newspaper on Monday [21 August] for slandering and declaring war on Islam.

"The al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah in Egypt and abroad calls for the blood of Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Al, editor-in-chief of the newspaper Al-Watan Al-'Arabi for his actions against Islam and for declaring war on God and his prophet," the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah said in a fax received by AFP. 'Abd-al-'Al "has insisted on slandering and mocking Islamic figures, especially Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the amir of the al-Jama'ah," the group said. "Whoever declares war on God and his prophet and seeks to harm believers must have the punishment of war imposed on them."

"It is the responsibility of all Moslems who care for their religion to kill, crucify or cut off the hands and feet as well as exile from the land" those who harm believers. "We will kill all secularists who continue to attack Islamic Shari'ah law and the imams of Islam, whether they be the heretical rulers or the followers of evil," the group said.

The weekly Al-Watan Al-'Arabi is the mouthpiece of the Social Justice party, a small opposition party, and often runs editorials and articles against the militant Islamist trend. On May 21 the weekly reported that the Jihad group issued a "fatwa," or religious decree, calling for the destruction of the Cairo Tower because its phallic shape would excite Egyptian women. The Jihad later denied that it had issued the threat against the 187-meter (617 feet) monument in the center of the Egyptian capital.

The al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah and Jihad have led an armed campaign by Moslem extremists to topple the government of President Husni Mubarak, which they consider apostate. Since March 1992, 850 people have died in the campaign.

Wafd Party To Run in Parliamentary Elections

NC1908193095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Aug (MENA)—Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din, leader of the opposition Wafd Party, has announced that his party will take part in the coming elections of the People's Assembly.

The newspaper AL-WAFD reports in its issue tomorrow, Sunday [20 August], that the party's committees have started to receive applications by party members who wish to run. Candidates' names will be referred to the party's panel to select the best choices.

The newspaper points out that the special committees have completed the electoral program and slogans of the party's candidates.

Nasirite Party To Run

NC2008190495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1825 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Aug (MENA) — The opposition Nasirite Arab Democratic Party has decided to participate in the upcoming People's Assembly elections. The party's secretariat general has approved the basis according to which the party's candidates will be chosen in the various governorates.

In its 21 August issue, the party's newspaper AL-'ARABI says the secretariat general met on Thursday

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[18 August] under Secretary General Diya'-al-Din Amin and approved the working plan to run in the elections.

The Wafd Party has also decided to run in the elections and has prepared its own working plan.

Mrs. Mubarak Invited to Beijing Women's Conference

NC2208065095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Aug (MENA)—PRC Charge in Cairo Wu Sikha [name as transliterated] has stated that the Chinese Government invited Mrs. Husni Mubarak to participate as a special guest in the fourth international conference on women to be held in Beijing.

He told a news conference tonight that Mrs. Mubarak's participation will be a good opportunity to meet the Chinese president, the premier of the State Council, and the chairwoman of the Women's Union.

He pointed out that China is currently preparing for the conference, which will be held from 4-15 September under the slogan "Equality, Development, and Peace." The conference will be preceded by a seminar for governmental and nongovernmental organizations between 30 August and 8 September. [passage omitted]

Treatment of Minister's Drug-Charged Relative Noted

NC1908102695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0520 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 aug (MENA)—The weekly newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM has interviewed Karim Ra'uf Butrus Ghali, who is in custody in the juvenile care center in al-Azbakiyah on charges of possessing a hallucinogenic drug. The opposition newspaper AL-SHA'B earlier claimed that the authorities allowed him to travel after his detention because of his kinship to a Cabinet minister.

In his statement published in AKHBAR AL-YAWM today, Karim said the drug, sold in a form that is similar to postage stamps, is commonly available in the United States, where he is in high school. He said he knows nothing about the case. He said he passes his time in custody reading American stories because he cannot read Arabic.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM cites Dr. 'Adil Sadiq, professor of psychology at 'Ayn Shams University, saying that the stamps contain a lethal substance that damages users' brain cells. He said that by licking the stamp or sticking it on his skin, the user can imagine he hears voices cursing him or people attacking him. He will imagine he has enormous strength and could, therefore, embark on crazy acts, such as standing in front of a train or jumping from a great height.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM, citing Major General 'Isam al-Tirsawi, director of the Counternarcotics General Administration, says that Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi requested that all legal measures be taken in this case without any personal courtesies. Al-Tirsawi noted that a judge will look into renewing the detention of Karim Ra'uf Butrus Ghali on 20 September.

The Interior Ministry earlier responded to claims by the newspaper AL-SHA'B on the issue, saying they are untrue and that the defendant has been in custody since his detention. The Interior Ministry, in its response, said AL-SHA'B's attempt to associate the name of Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation, with this case is intended to distort the image of innocent people before the public. The response confirmed that Dr. Ghali is a decent man noted for his patriotism and sincere love of his country.

Libya

Niger Prime Minister Amadou Arrives, Comments

LD1908065895 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hama Amadou, prime minister of the Niger Republic, arrived this evening in the civil airport of the Gulf of Sidra on a visit to the great Jamahiriyah, during which he will hold talks and contacts on strengthening the relations of cooperation between the two fraternal countries. [passage omitted]

The prime minister of Niger made a statement to JANA, which he began by expressing his happiness at this visit and said: Although I assumed responsibility a short while ago, I made sure that I came to the great Jamahiriyah to meet with the leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi so that I can acquaint myself with his advice and views, not only on relations between the great Jamahiriyah and Niger but also on African and international relations.

He explained that his visit is part of the solidarity of Niger with the great Jamahiriyah in its confrontation with the unjust measures imposed on it. Brother Hama Amadou also said: I carry the solidarity of the people of Niger with the fraternal people of the great Jamahiriyah, who made positive initiatives that should be put into practice in order to find a solution that will lead to lifting these measures.

The prime minister of Niger added: I will work with my colleagues the African officials for consolidating our

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strong solidarity with the great Jamahiriyah to make the world feel the strength of this solidarity and contribute to lifting the unjust measures against the Libyan people.

The brother prime minister of Niger at the end of his statement affirmed that relations between the great Jamahiriyah and Niger are historic, unchanging, and distinguished. There is a close cooperation in all fields and it tends to realize the joint interest of the two fraternal peoples.

Minutes on Bilateral Ties Signed

LD2008135995 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Libyan Arab-Niger talks on examining the prospects of bilateral cooperation between the two fraternal countries continued today in the presence of 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, brother secretary of the General People's Committee, and Niger Prime Minister Hama Amadou. [passage omitted]

During today's session, the means for strengthening cooperation relations in the different economic, cultural, and social spheres between the two fraternal countries were examined.

Views were also exchanged during the session on numerous African and international issues of common concern.

The minutes for following up on the prospects of bilateral cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Niger were signed this afternoon in the city of Sirte.

The signing of the cooperation minutes was attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee and the Niger president.

The minutes were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity, and by brother Mohamed Bazoum, Niger's foreign affairs and cooperation minister.

The cooperation minutes stipulate for strengthening the ties of cooperation between the two fraternal countries, the Great Jamahiriyah and Niger, consulting on issues of common concern, strengthening cooperation in the economic and trade spheres, strengthening bilateral investment, encouraging the citizens of the two countries to invest jointly, and cooperating in the spheres of security.

The minutes also stipulate for strengthening bilateral cooperation in the information, cultural, educational, and agricultural spheres.

Amadou Meets With al-Qadhdhafi

LD2008204195 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The brother leader of the revolution has received Hama Amadou, the prime minister of Niger, who is currently paying a cordial working visit to the Jamahiriyah to stress the solidarity and support of the people of Niger for the Arab Libyan people in facing up to the unjust measures, and to offer the thanks and appreciation of the people of Niger for the brother leader of the revolution for his initiative in order to secure stability and national concorde in Niger. They held talks on ways to strengthen Arab Libyan-Niger relations, as well as on African and international issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

Governments Sign Cooperation Protocol

LD2108151595 Tripoli JANA in English 1418 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sirte, Hannibal 21 [21 August], Jamahariya News Agency — A protocol for bilateral co-operation between the finance and banking sectors was signed between Libya and the Republic of Niger yesterday.

The protocol was signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Finance and by Almoustapha Soumaila, Niger's minister of finance and planning.

The signing ceremony was attended by the governor of Libya's Central Bank and by the secretary of the Arab Libyan People's bureau in Niger and the General Registrar at the General People's Committee for Finance.

It stipulates the strengthening of cooperation between Libya and Niger in the finance and banking areas.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Congratulatory Message

LD2108163195 Tripoli JANA in English 1617 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] received a congratulatory message from the president of the Republic of Nigeria, Sani Abacha, on the occasion of the birthday of the prophet (pbuh [peace be upon him]).

In his congratulatory message to the leader of the revolution, President Sani Abacha expressed the support and solidarity of the people of Nigeria with the great Jamahiriyah in countering the unjust measures despite all the difficulties which might be created.

President Abacha expressed his confidence and that of the Nigerian people and Government that victory will

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be on the side of the great Jamahiriyah in its resistance against them.

Morocco

King Addresses Nation, Announces Referenda

LD2108001695 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2116 GMT 20 Aug 95

[Address by King Hassan II on anniversary of revolution of the king and people at the royal palace in Skhirat — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Praise to God and prayers and peace be upon our Lord, the messenger of God and his kin and companions,

My dear people,

It is customary to address you on this day every year to commemorate the anniversary of the revolution of the king and people. [passage omitted]

When I assess the progress and prosperity attained by Morocco in several domains, I see that, thanks be to God, the yield is positive. Yes, we have met with difficulties and problems, and we have not had just successes. No, we have failed in some of our challenges and we have not been able to rise to the level of expectations in the face of some problems, but when we examine economic and social domains, we see that despite the lack of means Morocco has decided to develop these two fields in a balanced way. [passage omitted]

Thanks be to God, we have managed to arrived at what we were after; we arrived at a developed Morocco, a Morocco that is not considered a developing country, but a developed one, a Morocco that respects itself at home, a Morocco that has given itself constitutional and democratic institutions. [passage omitted]

Yes, it could be said that there was rigging or cheating in this or that election but this formal exterior does not alter anything of the developed constitutional principles that Morocco wanted and we wanted because our country wanted them, the principles that are in line with the spirit of the revolution of the king and the people. Whatever we wish for our country we feel eventually that our country was waiting for, whatever our country yearns for we feel deep inside that we share the same ambition and desire.

In fact, the outcome is very positive. However there is a problem, a fundamental one that renders us sleepless and wastes our money. Perhaps it even endangers our destiny. It is the problem of education. There is no development without education, without men or training. Will we remain like that until Morocco's population reaches 40 million? Will Morocco be able to ensure food, work, and dignity for all the citizens when our population becomes 40 million?

I am saying this to remind my dear people of this problem, though it is not the subject of our address today. I will repeat this many times and every time I have the chance because I see us like the one who has reached the top of a mountain and wanted to jump into the air but realizes that he has forgotten the parachute. Therefore, the only end waiting for him is to be destroyed and destroy his achievements. [passage omitted]

Dear people, at a previous speech I told you that I consider that an amendment to the Constitution should be introduced providing for a vote in parliament on the budget to take place at the end of the summer, in June. I also told you that I will submit this amendment to you in an referendum. Some may think that such an amendment will be a technical one, but I say to them: No, this will not be a technical amendment at all, but a fundamental amendment to manage the financial and economic affairs of the state. The reason is that Morocco has been and will continue to be relying for years on agriculture, and as you know, our agriculture is threatened with weather related dangers. Whatever our efforts to diversify and develop agriculture, whatever our research and planning, we will need decades to arrive at a situation where agriculture, even though still fundamental, will become just one of many fundamental resources. Therefore, we must be able to calculate the income from agriculture and take it into account when drafting our budget, so that we may not be laid open in our assessments either to negative pessimism or dreamy optimism. No, this will not be a technical amendment, because when the year is good, the income from agriculture attains 600 or 700 billion centimes. [passage omitted]

Thus, dear people, I propose to you that a referendum take place on Friday 15 September, God willing.

However, I will not stop at this step, but I will invite you in the course of next year, God willing, to engage in another referendum, a very important referendum that touches the core of the Constitution and the core of the representative system in Morocco.

I will propose to you, dear people, next year, God willing to vote yes for an amendment to the Constitution that will give Morocco two chambers: a chamber of deputies and a senate, for example, or whatever name we wish to call it.

Why I am going to invite you to this referendum next year but have you ponder about it very well now? First,

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the last amended Constitution mentions in its provisions the region. The region means nothing except when it is represented at the level of decision-making and not at the consultative level.

Second, we believe that the local assemblies, whatever their activity and vitality might be and whatever the competition of the members of their councils, cannot give what is expected of them as long as they are scattered and divided and as long as their views, wishes, and decisions are brought together with the professions to be represented in a chamber of deputies that has the right to decide.

Last, we believe that this second chamber will give a true meaning to decentralization and that at that time we will see that the regions will be giving their views and will correct what is crooked and voice their aspirations. At that time we will see competition between the two chambers — genuine competition. But now the chamber of deputies is required to look into the public and private sectors, even those who deal with the private sector, professions, and local assemblies — in this case they are the greater part of the workers in Morocco and they represent the peasants, merchants, craftsmen, laborers and professionals. It is these who give us our daily food. They are the ones who are our true hands and who provide the means of livelihood for us. It is not conceivable that they remain represented by only one third of the body. It is not also conceivable that they are transferred into a consultative council.

Why did I not meet some of the wishes that were brought to my attention to take this decision before now. This is for two reasons: The first is that I am still in my own mind, living that stage in which Morocco had two chambers. At that time, the experiment was not a failure but it was hindered. I did not want Morocco to fall into the problem that it experienced in the early days of the first Constitution.

Second, maybe I am slow in my thinking, although I am quick in listening, but when the issue concerns the destiny of the country I am slow in my thinking and quick in implementation. Why I am slow in thinking. It is because I wanted to build my choice, which would be placed in front of your choice, because the final word, dear people, is yours and the final decision is yours.

Before I put this choice to you for your opinion I wanted to be convinced myself so that I can convince you. Now that I have become convinced and until the time is right next year, God willing, and in the speech that I will address to you then, and after consulting those involved, I will make a speech before you, the speech of the convinced man who wants to convince you.

However, I have no doubt that you have perceived the extent of this amendment as you have jumped in terms of quality and quantity in a very brief period of thinking. In the light of these brief words that I have uttered in front of you today, you have jumped in terms of the time that you have analyzed and you will analyze and, as usual, we will be at one. Why, my dear people, I mentioned on this occasion two amendments to the Constitution?

I began my speech with the saying of the Prophet, may the prayers and peace of God be upon him: We have come out of the minor jihad and gone into the greater jihad. My aim, dear people, is to show and give you the categorical proof that these words are not empty, because the saying of coming out of the minor jihad and going into the greater jihad still applies to us, forty years on. This saying will remain our line and that of our children and grandchildren so that we may be able to face up to dangers, overcome difficulties, and rise to the level of the expectations of great responsibilities. [passage omitted]

We are today waging a greater jihad, but tomorrow our jihad will be greater than that of today. The world today suffers from trade, industrial, political, and military problems. Today, we hear the loud noise of guns in every region, and the state of the world tomorrow will be worse than today. I am not optimistic of the future and the world. The problems are not going to fade away; they are going to increase and become diversified. If we prove unable to face up to them, if we cannot be armed to defend ourselves and take up the position we deserve, then we will be reverting from the greater to the minor jihad, and from minor jihad, God forbid, to deterioration and perhaps obliteration from the map of respected peoples whose words are accorded trust and consideration. [passage omitted]

British Minister Brings Message From Major on Bosnia

LD1708152095 Rabat MAP in English 1302 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Aug 17 (MAP) — British secretary of state to defence [title as received], Nicholas Soames, arrived here Wednesday [16 August] evening with a message from British premier John Major to King Hassan II.

The message deals with Great Britain's stand on the Bosnian crisis and the existing means to untangle the situation, the British official said underlining the key role Morocco plays within the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

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King Hassan II is acting chairman of the OIC and Morocco chairs the OIC contact group on Bosnia. At meetings it held last May in Rabat and last July in Geneva, this group condemned the genocide and ethnic cleansing practiced by the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina and voiced concern over the passivity of western powers. At the Geneva meeting, Islamic countries decided to no longer respect the 'illegal and unfair' arms embargo imposed on Bosnia. [Words indistinct] last July, King Hassan II sent President Bill Clinton of the United States a message asking him to reconsider his stand regarding the arms embargo imposed on Bosnia that the sovereign described as illegal and immoral.

Before coming to Rabat, Nicholas Soames paid a similar visit to Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. He said he exchanged viewpoints with the officials of these friendly countries on the current situation in Bosnia and the developments of the Bosnian crisis.

Sudan

Rights Official Links Regime to Addis Ababa Attempt

NC1808074595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Mahjub al-Tijani, head of the Sudanese Human Rights Organization, has said the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime is isolated and that it does not serve the interests of the Sudanese people.

Al-Tijani added that this regime has turned Sudan into a pit of terrorism in the absence of freedom and democracy. He stressed that the countries and people of the region should join efforts with the Sudanese people, particularly since terrorism of all types and forms has increased. He said the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime was involved in the sinful attempt against President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa. Al-Tijani praised President Husni Mubarak for taking care of the Sudanese nationals living in Egypt.

Press Reports Opposition, Rebel Defections

EA1808120095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reliable sources say that some leaders from rebel John Garang's and the rebel Riak Machar's factions have expressed the desire to return home. They confirmed their satisfaction at the achievements by the peace process within the country.

The newspaper AL-INQADH AL-WATANI said in today's issue that a well-informed source on the programs to resettle returnees had said that preparations had been completed for the return of the leaders from the rebel movement in the next two days from a neighboring African country.

The paper said that there was a leadership crisis among the rebels. The paper pointed out that some western quarters had intervened to stop the ongoing battles between the rebels, which started about two weeks ago in the narrow strip on the border with Uganda.

Meanwhile, the paper, quoting its sources, said that the Egyptian security authorities had threatened one of the leaders of the so-called opposition in Cairo after he announced his rejection of the Asmara conspiracy conference and prevented him from returning to Sudan. The source said that the so-called opposition was now experiencing a break-up within its ranks out of fear that some more of its leaders would return home. The Egyptian security authorities had intensified their surveillance of the opposition groups.

Government Signs Oil Agreement With Qatar Company

EA1808103395 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1545 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sudan and the Doha-based Gulf Petroleum Company sealed today an agreement on oil development and production at Adar Bel field in Melut area in Upper Nile State.

Sudan's minister for energy and mining, Dr. Awad Ahmad al-Jaz, signed on behalf of the Government of Sudan while the Gulf Petroleum Company general manager, 'Abd-al-Aziz Hamid al-Daylami, signed for the company. The Qatari ambassador to Sudan attended the signing process. Mr. Uthman al-Hadi, board member of the company and chairman of the board of directors of the National Petroleum Company, stated that the national company now fully participates in oil prospection in the country to realize self-reliance. He related the Qatari seriousness in oil development in Sudan. He expressed hope that this step would pose as a model for future Arab cooperation.

Meanwhile, Mr. Al-Daylami underlined that the project is a first step for more cooperation between Sudan and Qatar.

On his part, Dr. Awad al-Jaz, energy and mining minister, commended Sudanese-Qatari bilateral cooperation in oil fields pledging all possible assistance by the Sudanese Government.

[The same cast later adds the following: "Gulf Oil General manager 'Abd-al-Aziz Hamad al-Daxylami held a press conference this afternoon at the Hilton Hotel on

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the agreement between Gulf Oil and the Sudan Government. He said the work would start soon after the rainy season and once the construction equipment had been delivered. According to the agreement, [word indistinct] Gulf Oil would own 60 percent of the shares while the National Petroleum Company would own 20 percent and [name indistinct] remaining 20 percent. The project would be in two stages: The first stage, costing $12 million, was to produce 5,000 barrels per day and the second stage, at a total cost of $30 million, to produce 10,000 barrels a day. The chairman of the board of the National Petroleum Company, Uthman al-Hadi, said the Sudan Government would give all the necessary concessions to enable the company to carry out and complete the project. All the necessary preparations have been made so that the work could start as scheduled."]

Western Sahara

Leader Urges Security Council To Organize Referendum

LD2008163895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz renewed his absolute rejection of burying the file on Western Sahara and called on the Security Council either to organize the referendum or withdraw.

Mohamed Abdelaziz affirmed that the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] will decide at the beginning of next year either to launch war or peace. [passage omitted]

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Bahrain

Amir, Iranian Ambassador Discuss Cooperation

LD2108182695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting on 21 August with the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Manama, the amir of Bahrain called for the settlement of regional conflicts by peaceful means. Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah emphasized his country's willingness to expand regional cooperation.

Stressing the need for the continuation of bilateral cooperation and its expansion in various spheres, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Manama called for mass cooperation between all the neighbors on the basis of common interests and historical ties. At the meeting, the bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and current developments were discussed.

Kuwait

Defense Minister Denies Iraqi Military Movements

NC2108194795 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait today again denied that there are any Iraqi military movements south of Iraq or near the borders. In an exclusive statement to MBC television, Kuwaiti Defense Minister Ahmad Humud al-Sabah stressed that his country has taken precautionary steps to confront any Iraqi attempt.

[Begin recording] [al-Sabah] There may be some brigades near the Kuwaiti borders. We are watching their movements as well as any movements by divisions. However I can say with certainty that at present there are no unusual movements of the Iraqi divisions. I am responsible for what I am saying. I am responsible before his excellency the amir, the heir apparent, the government, the Kuwaiti people, and the international society that there are no unusual movements from parallel 32 in the south to the Kuwaiti borders. We have worked with brothers and friends to take precautionary steps to foil any attempt by the Iraqi regime to move toward the Kuwaiti borders. As you know, in October last year, the Iraqi regime massed major forces near the borders. The concentrations made it seem as though they might attack and occupy Kuwait and might advance on our sister Saudi Arabia, particularly the eastern region. We always receive information. Information this time has been confirmed by the defector Husayn Kamil. We must always be alert and take all the necessary precautions; once bitten, twice shy.

[Al-'As'usi] What is the message behind the moving up of the date of the U.S.-Kuwaiti maneuvers and the date of the arrival of the U.S. forces to Kuwait?

[Al-Sabah] The message is addressed to the Iraqi regime that we are not alone in the battlefield and that there are fraternal countries, the Gulf Cooperation Council states, and other friendly countries, which will help us repulse any aggression against Kuwait. The vanguards of the U.S. forces will arrive in Kuwait in the next 48 hours, God willing.

[Al-'As'usi] What about Iraq's credibility about handing all the arms program information to the United Nations?

[Al-Sabah] I do not believe that Iraq has handed over all the arms files. We have grown used to seeing the ruling regime withhold the information it has from the international community. This file involves weapons of mass destruction. When I talk of nuclear weapons programs which the UN sought to obtain and destroy, they can obtain them through their own way, without information from the ruling regime. The Iraqi regime has other weapons—chemical and biological. These are destructive weapons not only to Iraq but to the international community. [end recording]

Minister Says Saddam Now in 'Death Throes'

NC2208072195 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 22 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Electricity Minister Jasim al-'Awn, in Kuwait, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Abu-al-Majd] Minister, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-'Awn] Thank you.

[Abu-al-Majd] After the defection of Saddam Husayn's sons-in-law, reports said that Iraq moved and amassed troops on your northern border. How true is this, and how does Kuwait view these developments?

[Al-'Awn] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. First, I would like to thank the Voice of the Arabs, which has always followed Arab developments closely and stood with us in our pain and joy. Undoubtedly, the decisive blow dealt to Saddam by his sons-in-law, particularly by his two daughters and those dearest to him, shows how bad things are in Iraq. Even the luckiest of people, and the closest to Saddam — his daughters and sons-in-law — could no longer live in Iraq under Saddam's regime. The decisive blow was certainly painful for the Saddam-led Iraqi regime.

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We are used to seeing Saddam, after every blow he receives, moving his troops and trying to flex his muscles against the states of the region. But it is known, praise be to God, that Saddam is now in his death throes. His wings are being clipped and his structures are crumbling. The blow this time was dealt by his daughters and sons-in-law.

For now we are taking them into consideration and monitoring them closely. Praise be to God, I can reassure our Arab brothers in Egypt and in all the Arab countries that Kuwait is in good shape as long as it feels it can enjoy the support of sisterly countries like Egypt, which always upholds right through the principles of its president, government, and people. Kuwait is always fine and healthy. Thank God, I can say that these movements are nothing but a show and an attempt to delude the world into thinking that the Iraqi regime is still strong and in control of things in Iraq. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Visits Defense Ministry

LD2108182995 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1300 today, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister visited the Defense Ministry. His highness was welcomed on arrival by Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Humud al-Jabir al-Sabah; Major General 'Ali al-Mu'min, chief of the general staff of the army staff; Dr. Humud al-Utaybi, under-secretary of the Ministry of Defense; and senior military commanders of the army.

His highness then chaired a meeting at the ministry which was attended by the minister of defense, the chief of the general staff of the army, the under-secretary of the Defense Ministry, and senior officers. His highness began the meeting by conveying greetings from his highness the amir and the commander in chief of the armed forces to his sons in the Kuwaiti army, and his best wishes for their success. His highness then reviewed the recent situations and development in the area. He discussed with them the preparedness and readiness of the Kuwaiti army to meet any emergency. His highness called on his sons, the officers, to be vigilant and cautious and be totally prepared to meet any eventualities that may harm the homeland's security and safety.

Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Humud al-Jabir al-Sabah then spoke. He expressed on behalf of his brothers in the armed forces and on his own behalf thanks for his highness for the visit, and reaffirmed the preparedness of all branches of the Kuwaiti army.

At the end of the meeting his highness had lunch with his sons, the officers, and wished them success in their duties.

Pelletreau Comments on 'Excellent' Ties, Departs

LD2108152495 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1454 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 21 August — Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for near east affairs, has said he "held very fruitful talks with the Kuwaiti officials today." He reaffirmed anew the U.S. commitment to the security of Kuwait and the Gulf area.

This came in a press statement made by Pelletreau before his departure and distributed by the U.S. Embassy after his talks with the Amir Jabir al-Ahmad, Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, and First Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad. In his statement Pelletreau said: "The visit was an opportunity to stress the importance of our excellent bilateral relations with Kuwait." He added: "I very much apprecaited the opportunity I was given to exchange views with the leaders of Kuwait regarding the recent development in the area." He said that the U.S. as before "shares with Kuwait the latter's strong resolve that the Iraqi regime should totally comply with all the resolutions of the UN Security Council and that the said regime should not be anew in a position which can threaten its neighbors. He said he had reaffirmed to the Kuwaiti leadership America's commitment to the security of Kuwait and the Gulf. [passage omitted]

Oman

Higher Oil Prices Wipe Out Projected Deficit

NC2108122995 Paris AFP in English 1204 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug 21 (AFP) — The rise in oil prices in the first half of 1995 has wiped out a projected deficit in Oman's budget and boosted the economy by more than five percent, according to Omani officials.

"There was a balance between spending and revenues in the first half of this year," said Mahmud al-Jarwani, director of the Muscat stock exchange. "The budget did not include any deficit during this period due to higher earnings. It could have even recorded a surplus," he told the London-based Middle East Broadcasting Corporation Television on Sunday night.

Al-Jarwani provided no figures but Oman had projected a 1995 budget deficit of around 800 million dollars. Revenues for the whole year were estimated at 4.8 billion dollars and expenditure at 5.6 billion dollars.

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Oil prices averaged around 17 dollars in the first half of 1995 compared with nearly 15.5 dollars in the first half of 1994.

The price increase boosted the revenues of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) by around 5.8 billion dollars in the first half of 1995, according to bankers.

All GCC states — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — have forecast budget deficits this year but bankers expect the shortfalls to be lower due to the oil price improvement.

Experts said Oman's income was also boosted by an increase of around 40,000 barrels per day (bpd) in its crude output, to 840,000 bpd.

"Other positive indications during the first half included a growth in the Gross Domestic Product by around 5.4 percent," al- Jarwani said. He said such developments, coupled with economic reforms in the non-OPEC Gulf nation, pushed the stock market to a record level of performance.

Last week, the stock index reached its highest ever level of 155.10 points and turnover during the first half hit a record 144.3 million dollars.

Qatar

Amir Confers With Bosnian Prime Minister on Peace

JN2008193295 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1125 GMT Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 20 Aug (WAKH)—An official round of talks was held between His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, and Dr. Haris Silajdzic, prime minister of the Republic of Bosnia—Herzegovina.

The Qatari News Agency said the Bosnian side briefed the Qatari side on latest developments in Bosnia following the involvement of the Croatian forces in fighting against the Bosnian Serbs and the progress the Bosnian Army forces are making against the Serbian forces in a number of sectors.

The Bosnian side also briefed the Qatari side on latest political and diplomatic developments aimed to end the war and reach a peaceful and just settlement for the situation in former Yugoslavia, the proposed U.S. plan, and the peace plan proposed by the Bosnian president which emphasizes the [word indistinct] sovereignty of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and its territorial integrity, and calls for joint recognition between the Bosnian, Serbian, and Croatian republics, and considers the peace plan presented by the Contact Group in 1994 the basis of any peaceful settlement.

The talks also dealt with the efforts made by the Arab and Islamic states in support of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina to enable them practice their legitimate right to defend themselves in accordance with the UN Charter, and urged all international forces, the international community, and the United Nations to protect the Bosnian people and support them in their endeavor to ensure their security, independence of their homeland, and their territorial integrity.

Saudi Arabia

Paper Dismisses Iraqi Claim Defection Unimportant

MM2108154495 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 16 Aug 95 p 1

[Editorial: "False Claims"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ever since the flight from Iraq of Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan and his family, the Iraqi regime has been trying to pretend that the defection had no significance as far as it was concerned, and that, as the Iraqi press put it, the West was betting on the losing horse, since Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan's responsibilities were very limited and purely administrative, with no effect on the regime, and before his defection he did not hold any great powers that would make him an influential member of the regime.

These claims are not new as far as the Iraqi regime is concerned, as it always resorts to them to justify specific positions inside Iraq or to divert attention to other marginal issues, away from the main ones. However, after a while the truth is known and the false claims that the Iraqi regime has made regarding many positions and issues are exposed.

That these claims are intended for local consumption only is confirmed by the Iraqi regime's haste in calling UN representative Rolf Ekeus and providing him with a new list of nonconventional weapons included in the Iraqi arms program and which it had often refused to disclose, and by the wide-ranging purges conducted by the regime within the ranks of the Army, the Republican Guard, and other administrative leaders, including the arrest of senior officers in the Army and Republican Guard and of some leaders suspected of being supporters of Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan, in addition to the Iraqi Revolution Command Council's decision to impose a travel ban on any Iraqi official unless he has Saddam Husayn's personal prior approval.

These and other signs totally contradict the regime's claim that the defection of Husayn Kamil Hasan, his family, and some senior officials had no impact on the

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regime. If it had no impact, these hurried decrees would not have been issued and we would not have seen high Iraqi officials taking turns to visit Jordan in an attempt to convince him to return. And how could his defection not be important when he was responsible for the Iraqi secret military programs during the past years?

Regardless of whether this defection was a ploy intended by the Iraqi regime to deflect attention away from other, deeper issues inside Saddam's family or within the ruling party, to fulfill other obligations for the lifting of the sanctions, to distance themselves from deeper internal issues, or to expose the Iraqi opposition's aims, or whether it was a genuine defection caused by the worsening circumstances and the deep family struggles within the Iraqi ruling party or within Saddam Husayn's family, all the signs prove the event's impact and that it is a mighty blow to the regime, whether it happened as a result of collusion between the regime and the lieutenant general or whether it was a genuine flight from circumstances about which one cannot be silent. The days to come are full of surprises which could be bigger than the predictions of observers betting on the regime's fall or the continuation of the sanctions. What happened confirms without the slightest doubt the cracks and unease that the Iraqi regime is experiencing. All we have to do now is wait and wonder about the time of the fall of the Iraqi regime, whose internal structure has collapsed and whose foundations have been shaken by internal strife. It is only a matter of time, which could either be long or short depending on how swift the events are.

Pakistani, Lebanese Executed for Drug Smuggling

LD2108135495 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1131 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Interior Ministry issued today two statements on the execution in Riyadh of two foreign nationals, a Pakistani and a Lebanese, for smuggling drugs into Saudi Arabia.

Barwiz Rachid Muhannad, a Pakistani national, was arrested while attempting to smuggle a quantity of heroin into the Kingdom hidden inside his body and shoe. The aforementioned was found guilty of the crime, sentenced to death by the sword, and executed today, Monday 21 August 1995, in the city of Riyadh.

Nabil Dawud 'Abbas Hamadah, a Lebanese national, was arrested while attempting to smuggle a quantity of cocaine into the kingdom. The aforementioned was found guilty, sentenced to death by the sword, and executed today, Monday 21 August 1995, in the city of Riyadh.

'Stern Deterrent' Against Drug Use Defended

MM1808142495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Aug 95 p 9

[Editorial: "No Relaxation on Deterrence"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has stressed that it will not relax in deterring anyone who tampers with its laws and security.

If official circles in any state are entitled to take care of the affairs of its nationals, they should also understand the extent of the other states' care for their security and the security and interests of their citizens. Drugs are a terrible pest, and world states are mobilizing all their energies to fight it.

The world has seen and heard how decisively the United States acted a while ago toward Colombia and other Latin American states, and how some states in Southeast Asia apply the severest punishments against drug traffickers and smugglers. And today, thanks to the firmness of political and judicial authorities in the Southeast Asian states near to Burma, one of the most dangerous sources of drugs, anyone who follows the road of the smuggling and trafficking crime now thinks twice about the punishment awaiting him.

It is very necessary that the states seeking to play a positive role on the international stage join forces with the states that have preceded them in the fight against the drugs pest. Especially as the aim of applying the maximum punishment is to deter and warn.

Actually the punishment stipulated in the Shari'ah rules vis-a- vis drug trafficking is clear. Thus it has to be applied lest it lose its deterrent value. Even if some of the guilty individuals were tempted by others, anyone casting doubt, seeking compassion, or even criticizing the rules applied must remember that the individual's freedom in any responsible society is linked to the majority's freedom. And that a stern deterrent is a useful vaccine against a deadly social disease that is rocking the foundations of human civilization as a whole.

And if the commitment of Islamic states in Southeast Asian to applying the rules of the law as regards drug crimes has succeeded in scaring criminals, ending their evil, and rescuing the young people in those states from the drugs pest and its complications, it is the duty of every Islamic state to follow this road.

It has nothing to do with the nationality of those involved, nor is it an exaggerated punishment for a minor misdemeanor. It is merely to do with the duty to apply the rule of the law and the Shari'ah against what is really a prelude to sedition...; and sedition is worse than murder.

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Crown Prince Praises Judicial System

LD2108211395 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Royal Highness 'Abdallah Bin-Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, first deputy prime minister, crown prince, and commander of the National Guard, affirmed that Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, was and still adheres to the implementation of the Islamic Shari'ah in ruling, sentencing, dealing, and worshipping.

He said that this was the secret as to why crime rate in the Saudi society is at its lowest level, compared to other societies. His highness stressed that Saudi Arabia will remain, God willing, the ideal society because the Islamic Shari'ah prevailed in every aspect of life and that Shari'ah was appropriate anytime, anywhere, and for any nation because it derived from God.

This came during the session held by the Council of Minister's under the chairmanship of Prince 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-'Aziz this afternoon at Salam Palace in Jeddah.

In a statement he made to SPA after the meeting, his excellency Dr. Fu'ad Bin-'Abd-al-Salam al-Farisi, the information minister, indicated that his highness the crown prince had hailed, in his address to the Council, the Saudi judiciary and stressed its fairness and competence.

His royal highness said that "the judiciary in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an independent system based on the teachings of the Holy Koran and the Sunna of the Prophet, God's peace upon him. It is the responsibility of trustworthy men who have a thorough knowledge of the Shari'ah and are thus qualified to issue rulings against criminals in accordance with the Islamic law that protects societies, groups, and individuals against the ills and scourges affecting some societies in the world."

His highness the crown prince added: "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has the lowest crime rate in the world, particularly with regard to drugs, thanks to God, and also to the execution of the death sentence against drug-traffickers and peddlers. The death sentence was prescribed for such crimes by the Board of Senior Theologians in the Kingdom."

His highness stressed that "this pure country will, with God's assistance, continue to carry out the death sentence on drug- traffickers and peddlers who are convicted by the judicial authorities. This sentence goes through several courts in the Kingdom and ends with the Courts of Cassation, and from there the Higher Judicial Council." [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Quick Solution to Gulf Islands Dispute Ruled Out

NC1808160995 Paris AFP in English 1414 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug 18 (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) ruled out on Friday [18 August] a quick solution to its dispute with Tehran over three Gulf islands occupied by Iran.

"It's a thorny question and all signs out of Tehran suggest that a solution is not near" for the dispute over the Abu Musa, Lesser Tunb and Greater Tunb islands, Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, the deputy prime minister, said.

The UAE "continues its dialogue and diplomatic activities with Iran to try to modify its outlook on this matter," he said, adding that Tehran's occupation of the strategic islands was "un-Islamic."

Shaykh Sultan said the UAE would be forced to take the dispute to the United Nations and other international bodies "to regain its legitimate rights over the islands."

The UAE asked Iran in October to accept arbitration by the International Court of Justice at The Hague. Tehran implicitly rejected the demand, saying the islands "belonged to it for eternity."

Iran seized the islands, which house military bases, in 1971 when the UAE gained its independence from Britain.

The UAE, backed by fellow members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), launched a campaign to regain the islands in 1992 after several incidents on Abu Musa.

The other GCC members are Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, and Saudi Arabia.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in March that Iran would "defend these three islands with force and determination."

Finance Minister Meets With Chinese Official

JN1908105495 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, deputy ruler of Dubai and minister of finance and industry, received Luo Gan, deputy head of the Chinese State Council, currently visiting the country, at the Ruler's Office in Dubayy today.

During the meeting, they discussed aspects of bilateral cooperation in various fields.

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Heir Apparent Receives Bosnian Prime Minister

JN2108102795 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, heir apparent of Abu Dhabi and deputy to the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, this afternoon received His Excellency Haris Silajdzic, prime minister of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and his accompanying delegation, currently on a visit to the country, at his highness's palace in al-Batin.

During the meeting, the conferees reviewed current developments in Bosnia—Herzegovina and efforts under way to achieve security and peace in it, as well as issued of mutual concern. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Proposed OIC Emergency Meeting on Bosnia Canceled

JN2008061595 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Aug 95

[Statement by "a Foreign Ministry spokesman to THE YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA'"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Republic of Yemen had called for an emergency meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] member states. The call was made through brother President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih at a speech rally held in Sanaa in solidarity with the Bosnia- Herzegovina people. Several Muslim states have valued this Yemeni initiative. Twenty-one states said they were ready to actively participate in the Sanaa emergency meeting on 26 August.

In accordance with the OIC charter, a legal emergency meeting requires a quorum of two thirds of the member states — 51 in total. Because the legal quorum to hold the meeting was not secured on the one hand, and because proposals by other states that such an initiative must be considered in light of the outcome of the efforts exerted by certain states to stop the war and find solutions that will ensure the rights of all parties in the Balkan region on the other, the Republic of Yemen announces that it will be difficult to hold the emergency meeting for the OIC foreign ministers which it proposed to hold in Sanaa on 26 August. [passage omitted]

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Regime Admits To Developing Bacteriological Weapons

MS2208114095 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 22 Aug 95 p 9

[Report by Gerald Butt: "Iraq Admits Work on Germ Missiles"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iraq has admitted that it has been working on weapons designed to carry deadly bacteria over long distances, enabling it to threaten Israel as well as neighbouring states.

The admission was made during the latest visit to Baghdad by Rolf Ekeus, head of the United Nations weapons inspection team.

Mr Ekeus arrived yesterday in Jordan to speak to Gen Husayn Kamil, who was in charge of developing Iraq's weapons industry before the 1991 Gulf War.

He and another high-level Iraqi defected to Jordan earlier this month with their wives, both daughters of President Saddam Husayn.

Over recent weeks the weapons inspectors had gathered a considerable amount of material about the Iraqi germ warfare programme. But Baghdad had denied making the weapons to deliver the bacteria.

Now, according to Mr Ekeus, the Iraqis have admitted putting biological agents "on missile warheads and bombs". This, he said on BBC's TODAY programme, was "a major admission. It means that the Iraq weapons programme was very much advanced".

Mr Ekeus acknowledged that the Iraqi government's attitude towards the weapons issue had changed since the defections to Jordan. The Iraqis, he said, were now speaking "a new language" of co-operation.

Unconfirmed reports from Amman yesterday said another member of Saddam's family had broken ties with the regime. Barzan Ibrahim Al-Tikriti, a half-brother of Saddam and the Iraqi ambassador to the UN in Geneva, was said to have given his support to Gen. Husayn Kamil.

If confirmed, the latest defection would deal another big blow to Saddam. Barzan Ibrahim handles finance and investment for the regime. But relations between the two men have been strained because of a family quarrel.

Barzan Ibrahim's daughter is married to Saddam's eldest son, 'Udayy. But because she has not borne him a son, 'Udayy has abandoned her and she lives with her father in Geneva. Since the marriage broke-up 18 months ago, Barzan Ibrahim has not returned to Baghdad.

Another defector predicted yesterday that Saddam's days were numbered. "A military coup and a popular revolution are coming," Maj 'Izz-al-Din Muhammed al-Majid said in Amman.

"The Iraqis want to get rid of the regime. The whole world knows what is happening in Iraq... slaughter, executions, starvation." He said the timing of the coup was in the hands of Allah".

Saddam Chairs Meeting on Cooperation With UN

JN2108173095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

An authorized source has stated the following: During the meeting, they studied the results of the talks held between the competent Iraqi circles and Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the Special Commission, and the delegation of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. During these talks, documents and information were delivered. According to the statement by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz a few days ago, these documents and information had been previously concealed.

In the joint meeting, it was decided to continue cooperation with the Special Commission and the IAEA with complete openness in order to close all real loopholes in files related to part C of Resolution 687, enabling the Special Commission and the IAEA to present to the Security Council, hopefully within a short period of time, the long awaited report pertaining to the closure of these files so that the Security Council will carry out its legal commitments toward Iraq in accordance with Resolution 687, particularly the full implementation of Paragraph 22 of this resolution without any restrictions or additional conditions.

The meeting was attended by the head of the presidential office, the minister of trade, the foreign minister, and culture and information minister.

Possibility of Haiti-Style U.S. Operation Seen

MM2208115095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Aug 95 p 17

[Article by Khayrallah Khayrallah: "Between Iraq and Haiti"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The movement of U.S. troops to the region comes amid fears of an insane Iraqi

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action and indicates that there is a true intention to get rid of the ruling regime in Baghdad. Certainly, the movement of U.S. troops and the premature joint exercises with Kuwait in addition to the current ones with Jordan do not amount to enough for a direct move aimed at toppling the Iraqi regime. The clarification of international intentions towards Iraq requires a Security Council resolution, along the lines of the one that was issued in the case of Haiti. At that time, the resolution turned out to be the best cover for U.S. troops to enter Haiti and restore President-elect Aristide to power, in an operation with the publicized aim of restoring democracy in the country.

Such a possibility exists, despite the fact that there is no president-elect waiting to return to Iraq from Washington and despite the lamentable state of the Iraqi opposition which contributed to extending the regime's life. Actually, King Husayn himself pointed to the possibility of finding a parallel between the situations of Iraq and Haiti in his interview with AL-HAYAH at the end of last June when he called for U.S.-Iraqi talks, and said that the U.S. Administration had sent three well-known officials to Haiti to convince its rulers to relinquish power. Why, therefore, should there not be talks with Baghdad?

If consultations were soon to take place with regard to the Security Council issuing a resolution declaring the present rulers of Iraq unfit to remain in power, the United States would finally have bolstered its options toward refusing any talks with Baghdad as long as the present regime stands. What is clear is that the U.S. call to tighten the siege on Baghdad, especially through Jordan, is part of the tougher measures to topple the regime.

In reality, the U.S. strategy is not lacking in gaps; foremost, that Jordan is not Iraq's only gateway to the world. There are also Turkey and Iran, and there is the fact that Jordan is not enthusiastic about closing its borders with Iraq. Also, there does not seem to be any indication thus far of a serious U.S. desire to broach the two problems of Turkey and Iran. However, what would help Washington in the future is that the "family" problems will not stop after Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid's flight to Jordan with his brother Saddam. Such problems will make the world feel the need to embark on some action to save the Iraqi people from a regime whose first guarantee of survival was the unity of its family members in addition to its capacity for establishing alliances of a tribal and regional nature. Perhaps the disintegration that befell the family and its alliances will encourage the U.S. Administration to persevere in its tougher policy in preparation for the time when the Security Council will justify an outside intervention to topple the regime when popular circumstances in Baghdad would have reached the point of preparing to welcome any outside force as savior and conqueror. To reach such a situation requires only some reckless behavior by this or that member of the family, to enforce the total separation between the Iraqi regime and the simple logic of things.

Will the U.S. strategy succeed or will it not? That is not the question. The real question is whether the Iraq Government can undertake specific steps to save itself from itself, or whether it is too late and if everything is heading towards a repeat of the Haiti experience with a difference, that is, without sending U.S. officials to Baghdad to convince the regime to give up, after all its achievements for Iraq and the Iraqi people?

Paper Criticizes 'Stepped-Up' U.S. Campaign

JN2208105495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0648 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH described the U.S. Administration's conduct and attitude toward Iraq as jittery, impulsive, prejudiced, arrogant, reckless, irrational, and unreasonable.

In an article today entitled "On the Apparent and Real Motives of the U.S. Escalation," the paper adds that the United States, in its stepped-up political, military, and media campaign, appears as if it is in a race against time in a "marathon" that has not been joined by anybody except some allies and petty lackeys. On the face of it, it looks as if the Iraqi leadership and people have become the Americans' preoccupation, as if the world has been rid of all its problems and crises, and as if the White House has nothing left but to force a fait accompli on this "quarrelsome" country.

The paper goes on to say: The basic aspect of the U.S. attitude is that it is not warranted on any grounds. This strips the U.S. attitude of any good reason for this unwarrantable and unethical belligerency. This is because Iraq has not recently taken any single stand that could be used by the U.S. Administration as a "reasonable" excuse for its current hostile campaign acceptable to world states and peoples.

The paper says: The United States has used the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, recent events, and Iraq's relationship with the Special Commission as an excuse to promote its hostile course although Iraq is eager to deny the U.S. scheme the chance to remain engaged in the tug-of-war. Yet, what remains to be said is the fact that the current state of affairs does not provide the Clinton administration any reason that

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it can use to deceive the world community to justify its stepped-up diplomatic, media, and military campaign against Iraq.

The paper adds: The details unfolding before our eyes have shown that the United States is engaged in these hostile practices to equip its agents and allies in the region with paws, which is an impossible task. Despite all that they are doing, the Americans are well aware that their wagers on changing the "status quo" or the "current state of affairs" are very limited or almost negligible, for those who were born without paws and teeth cannot definitely draw benefit from the others' paws and teeth.

The paper wonders: How can anybody imagine that he can extricate Iraq, a country of well-known resources and history, from the heart of Arab territory and fracture it so that it may become another weak creation of the new world order, by acting in violation of international law, real legitimacy, and universal norms? Is the U.S. Administration interested in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions in the first place?

The paper says: Any credible analyst would effortlessly reach the reasonable conclusion that the United States' interest in the relevant resolutions is proportionate to the excuses and falsehoods they provide to facilitate the implementation of its hostile schemes against Iraq and the Arab nation. For had they been concerned with the legal aspects of these resolutions and eager to see them implemented, the Americans would have welcomed the successive steps Iraq has taken to epitomize its relationship with the UN Security Council and the Special Commission, particularly the most recent step of providing all information to the Special Commission to plug any loophole the existence of which was a U.S. responsibility in the first place. Nonetheless, what has happened is quite the opposite.

The paper concludes by saying: Is it not puzzling that the United States steps up its stands toward Iraq, tries to tarnish its image and misrepresent facts, and threatens the use of brute force, which is devoid of any sense of moral or international responsibility, whenever there is a positive development in the relationship between Iraq on the one hand and the UN Security Council and the Special Commission on the other as a result of a specific initiative the Iraqi leadership takes to remove all the obstacles to revoking the unfair sanctions?

No Support Said for U.S.; Iraq To 'Weather Storm'

NC2208095395 Paris AFP in English 0857 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 22 (AFP)—Iraq said Tuesday [22 August] it is a trouble-hardened nation that "will weather the storm" of US pressure following the defection of a Iraqi senior official.

Washington is trying to exploit what it thinks is "a crack in Iraq's internal front" created by former industry minister Husayn Kamil Hasan's defection to Jordan on August 8, the official BAGHDAD OBSERVER newspaper said.

The United States has begun a diplomatic drive to break Iraq's economic ties with Jordan, its lifeline to the world, and sent troops to the Middle East to protect Jordan and Kuwait against a possible threat, US officials say.

But Iraq accused Washington of trying to distract attention from what it says is its compliance with UN disarmament resolutions required for lifting economic sanctions imposed after the invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

"If Washington is planning to tighten the psychological noose, it is worth remembering that Iraqis are so seasoned and trouble- hardened that they would soon weather the storm," the English- language newspaper said.

"The less than two weeks since Kamil's defection to Jordan have revealed the traces of an orchestrated campaign by the US to bring Iraq to its knee and keep the UN sanctions in place," it said.

But it said that Washington has failed to win support from its Western or Arab allies, adding Jordan has officially announced it will not cut economic ties with Iraq.

'Pretext' for Anti-Iraq Actions Not 'Convincing'

JN2208083895 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1750 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. threats against Iraq have escalated over the past few days, taking a more hostile and provocative form. This can be described as a new chapter in the conflict between Washington and Baghdad — a conflict whose chapters have continued and whose methods have diversified since the 30-state aggression in 1991. The U.S. Administration continued to hint at returning to the military option in each new fabricated crisis.

The current U.S. escalation in the confrontation with Iraq must pose many questions. The most prominent question is: What has happened in Iraq and the region which created this big clamor and caused this sudden military, media, and diplomatic mobilization? The pretext used by Washington to justify its recent moves cannot be viewed, by fair observers, as a convincing and

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sound excuse for the steps taken by Washington, particularly since the state of treason and defection is not a rare precedent in countries' political life and that the recent incident [Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan] did not have any serious effect on Iraq's domestic situation. Also, Iraq's relations with its Arab and foreign neighbors did not witness any deterioration or tension and official Jordanian and Kuwaiti sources themselves denied any Iraqi military threat to their security. This constitutes a response to the U.S. threats in this regard.

The fact, which must be reaffirmed, entrenched, and carefully observed in the new U.S. scheme against Iraq, is that Washington has abandoned the covers, termed as international legitimacy the international law and the Security Council resolutions, and has begun to move alone against Iraq, far away from the will of the international community, if not to say against that will itself. This reaffirms U.S. isolation in a world which began to realize the dimensions and objectives of the U.S. political game and to announce its rejection of its logic, which is based on hegemony and aggression.

Regarding the return to hint at resorting to the military option against Iraq, despite the fact that there is no Iraqi measure that requires such a reactions, we can say that Washington hoped that its diplomatic efforts over the past months would succeed in maintaining the support of some Security Council members for its anti-Iraq stand. When Washington became aware that the international political arena is no longer prepared to accept U.S. logic, it stirred up this anti-Iraq clamor, began a fabricated military escalation, conducted provocative maneuvers in Jordan and Kuwait, and dispatched a number of its diplomats to some regional states to blackmail and scare the regimes, which are tied up with U.S. politics, and to embroil them in any expected U.S. military operation against Iraq or to force them to tighten the siege imposed on the people of Iraq. According to the known calculations, it is natural to say that Washington cannot, under the current international and regional circumstances, mobilize a military force, which is similar to the 30-state alliance. On the political level also, Washington lacks pretexts and reasons and faces fragmentation of the consensus which prevailed in the UN Security Council.

On the Iraqi side, the passage of more than five years of steadfastness and confrontation has strengthened the internal front and overturned many U.S. wagers, particularly the abortive attempts to shake the pan-Arab regime in Iraq led by President Saddam Husayn.

World Support for Action Against Nation 'Negligible'

JN2208081395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0610 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Aug (INA)—An Iraqi newspaper has asserted that the growing international consensus that the perpetuation of the Iraq sanctions is no longer warrantable and the increasing international support for lifting the wrongful embargo, coupled with the U.S. isolation, have prompted Washington to opt for its favorite option, which is the escalation of crises.

In an article today, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The escalation of regional and international crises has become the hallmark of U.S. foreign policy. When they feel that certain crises have become solvable, or that the wronged party has won the sympathy of the world community, Washington's policymakers put on a show of force to terrorize peoples by using "battleship diplomacy" with a view to achieving U.S. purposes, promoting U.S. interests, and reinforcing U.S. presence in the region.

The paper adds: After they had realized that it is difficult to maintain the Iraq sanctions, the Americans and their allies have recently stepped up their suspicious moves on the political and military levels exploiting events. They have done so with a blatant determination to justify these moves by advancing flimsy pretexts regarding various Iraqi moves and intentions, using Western media to misrepresent facts and prepare world public opinion for any possible hostile act they might carry out.

The paper goes on to say: Since the collapse of the former Soviet Union in 1990, which has created a state of imbalance, Washington has had a lot of elbow room that allowed it to step up crises. However, the hostile buildup in terms of size and kind cannot not be similar to the one seen in August 1990. Moreover, the possibility of obtaining international support for any hostile act looks negligible compared to what happened in August 1990.

The paper says: The feeling by the international community that the United States seeks to promote its interests at the expense of others, including Europe, cannot be entirely overlooked. Likewise, Iraq's ability to confront aggression is unmistakably clear and based on a firm national will.

The paper adds: The U.S. Administration is well aware, more than others, that Americans are not ready for a fresh military adventure in Asia, because such an adventure will provide them with an additional piece

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of evidence showing President Clinton's disavowal of his election promises at a time when his domestic woes are on the increase.

The paper concludes by saying that the Iraqis, more than any other people, are well aware that the new escalation targeting them will fail to achieve its purposes, and that further clarity and greater sorting of trenches will take place on the regional scene; and this will allow people to know intentions and plans. Moreover, they are aware that Iraqi will has been steeled in the furnace of the events that have taken place since 1980.

Paper Denounces 'Hostile' U.S. Position

JN2108140695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has denounced the U.S. position which is hostile to Iraq and which yields to the Zionist influence and to the U.S. monopolistic interests, particularly the oil interests.

In an article today, the paper says: The real reasons behind this position is the desire to control Arab oil to control the economies of other industrialized states, particularly Europe and Japan, as well as to keep Iraqi oil away from the transactions conducted in the world oil markets, so the Arabian Gulf oil, including Saudi oil, will not be affected.

AL-QADISIYAH points out that most Saudi incomes go to the U.S. treasury through various channels, led by the payments for Saudi purchases of U.S. arms and military equipment. Most of these arms and equipment exceed Saudi Arabia's real needs.

The paper adds: The U.S. position hostile to Iraq is also subjected to a more effective element; namely, the Zionist influence whereby U.S. ideas and positions are affiliated with Zionism, which is common among U.S. leaders. Moreover, the Zionist Lobby influences U.S. political life by controlling both the economic activity and the media. This control makes the U.S. position on any Arab or Islamic state or cause influenced by the Zionist entity's position on these states or causes.

AL-QADISIYAH says: This position is a consistent U.S. position which is expressed in policies that are extremely biased toward the Zionist entity and extremely hostile to any force that threatens this entity or represents a growing action capable of reducing the expansionist Zionist threats. Under this influence, the Clinton Administration, which is the most biased toward the Zionist entity and the most Zionized U.S. Administration, is currently showing rash hostility to both Iraq and President Saddam Husayn.

Daily Criticizes U.S. 'Conspiratorial' Schemes

NC1908083595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ asserts that the U.S. Administration is shuffling the cards and sending out test balloons and feelers in its conspiratorial scheme against Iraq. In an article published today, AL-'IRAQ says Washington is showing its intentions by fabricating stories that are mostly [words indistinct] about particular people whose insight has been blinded [words indistinct] the evildoers who mislead others and distort facts.

AL-'IRAQ says the U.S. Administration relies on falsehoods as a pretext to implement its aggressive schemes, which are aimed at dominating the people's resources, plundering their wealth, and usurping their will for (?security) and stability.

AL-'IRAQ says our world today has been plagued by [words indistinct], which dominate the mentality of the U.S. Administration in its responsibility for leading and controlling the world in view of its (?material) resources, military and technological potential, and mighty forces. The paper says that this mentality and these resources make the United States behave as an oppressive force that can invade and occupy many weak countries.

Al-'IRAQ says the numerous aggressive actions by the United States in many places prove that it violates the law and international legitimacy by fabricating problems and crises and instigating to subvert relations among nations, never mind its conspiratorial efforts to interfere in the domestic affairs of these countries.

The paper says the United States is striving to augment its presence in the Red Sea and the Arab Gulf under the old pretext of "Iraqi threats." This story is no different from past stories, which are full of lies and are misleading to show off that it is the protector of security, peace, stability, and democracy in the world and the advocate of human rights everywhere.

The paper points out that this feverish (?deception) is similar to previous U.S. attempts and demonstrations of its desire to control [words indistinct] that failed during recent years to achieve its evil goals and purposes. And then the United States carried out the mightiest act of aggression against Iraq and an all- encompassing blockade. The paper notes the increasing and coordinated efforts of the misleading Western media machine fabricating aggressive stances against Iraq and its people. It says this goal and the spiteful and aggressive intentions against Iraq are a desperate and failed attempt, because they stem from the same aggressive scheme.

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Paper 'Vehemently' Criticizes U.S. 'Press War'

JN1908125295 Baghdad INA in English 1150 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 18, INA — AL-JUMHURIYAH paper criticized vehemently the U.S press military and hysteric escalation against Iraq.

In its editorial article on Friday, the paper said that the United States started to behave in a clear hysteric way, for it is not stopped with launching a press war against Iraq, moreover, it started to move its forces towards Arab Gulf.

The paper refuted this American behaviour and its on set aggressive aims against Iraq, for it said, the world is questioning if the region is punched with war really.

For an any subjective foreign observer, either he is journalist or diplomatic, he can observe that the situation is very normal inside Iraq and there is not any sign of an abnormal situation as the American press war inspires.

On the military respect, the Pentagon sources said that the Iraqi forces movements inside Iraq are inside and surrounding the barracks or northern Iraq.

The paper stressed that these American behaviours are a dirty game really because they implied on deceit and delusion to make the region and the world believe that there is something in order to prepare the regional theater for more American intereferences and to elicit more concessions from the Arabs as well as to incite them against each other and might involve some idiots in desperate and suicidal actions against Iraq's stability.

The United states is trying to mix papers and create new proceedings so as to obstruct the embargo lifting after practicing severe pressures against the other states, by this action it expresses an isolated and weak situation rather that a power and political effect situation and this is indicated clearly by its resorting to threat style, the paper added.

The paper confirmed that this current hot press war is only an attempt to mislead the international and Arab opinion that Iraq is facing a dangerous internal crisis and the region is facing a prospect of a new war due to dubious Iraqi movements and spreading information to affect on the Iraqi people negatively.

The United States also wanted to use this press war to prepare the states and organizations to accept the American's stand calls of or prolong the embargo.

Mission Declines To Confirm, Deny Barzan Defection

JN2108195395 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi mission at the United Nations in Geneva today declined to confirm or deny that the mission's head Barzan al-Tikriti, Saddam Husayn's half brother, has defected and supported General Husayn Kamil Hasan who fled from Baghdad and sought refuge in Amman recently.

The Iraqi mission's first secretary announced that the current developments in Iraq do not concern [al-safir laysa ma'niyan] Ambassador Barzan al-Takriti.

For its part, the Iraqi opposition is emphasizing that Barzan has defected and considers this a continuation of the disintegration in President Saddam Husayn's family.

Hasan's Father Reportedly Dies; 2 Brothers Arrested

JN2108164095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Report by Randah Habib in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Reliable Iraqi sources have said that Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, President Saddam Husayn's half-brother, has decided to support the dissident lieutenant general, Husayn Kamil Hasan, and has refused to return to Baghdad. Barzan has been Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva since February 1989 and is in charge of managing the Iraqi president's finances.

Iraqi sources attribute Barzan's decision to the incident in which his brother, Watban Ibrahim al-Tikriti, was shot by 'Udayy, Saddam Husayn's eldest son, who fired at Watban and wounded him in the leg.

On another level, our radio has learned that Kamil Hasan, General Husayn Kamil's father, died of a heart attack at a Tikrit hospital last Thursday [17 August] following the flight of his two sons Husayn and Saddam and the arrest of two other sons, one of whom is Hakim Kamil Hasan, whose name was on a list issued by the Iraqi authorities of six individuals who were described as traitors. The authorities asked anyone having any connection with them to give themselves up to the authorities.

Reports Say Third Corps Commander Escaped

NC2108155295 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports circulating in Iraq this morning affirm that Staff Major General Sabah Nuri

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'Ulwan, commander of the Third Corps, has escaped to an unidentified destination. No reports are available on his destination so far.

Following the defection of General Husayn Kamil Hasan and his group to Jordan, reports said that Maj. Gen. 'Ulwan was among the group that was detained by Saddam's regime.

Saddam's Daughters Reportedly Refuse To Return

MM2208094795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Aug 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Saddam's Daughters Tell King Husayn: We Are Under Your Protection and Like Daughters to You, and We Do Not Want To Go Back to Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-HAYAH — The day before yesterday King Husayn hosted a dinner banquet in honor of President Saddam Husayn's daughters Raghad and Rana, their husbands Husayn Kamil and Saddam Kamil, and their aides.

An informed Jordanian source has told AL-HAYAH that, "in the presence of some members of the Jordanian ruling family," the Jordanian monarch suggested to Saddam's daughters the idea of returning to their country but they "emphatically rejected it." He added that "Raghad and Rana told King Husayn: We are under your protection and like daughters to you and we do not wish to return to Iraq."

The same source said that Manal al-Alusi, head of the Iraqi Women's Federation, and one of Saddam's sisters met with the two daughters and asked them to return to Iraq but they refused. The source reaffirmed that the two daughters refused to meet with their brother 'Udayy when he sought King Husayn's permission for such a meeting on 10 August.

The source told AL-HAYAH that the number of Iraqi refugees is exactly 22, 13 of whom are members of the family of Husayn and Saddam Kamil, while the rest are aides. He denied that any of them had left Amman since their arrival there on 8 August.

The source criticized the behavior of Nuri al-Wayyis, the Iraqi ambassador in Amman, who "went to all the former Jordanian prime ministers, the Senate speaker, and other senior officials asking them to mediate and secure a meeting with the Iraqi president's two daughters." He described that behavior as "a violation of diplomatic traditions and even Arab customs."

Consultations Held To Form 'Salvation Government'

MM2108143095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Aug 95 pp 1, 6

[Reports by Hamad al-Jasir in Kuwait, Tariq al-Mumini in Amman, Muhammad 'Allam in Cairo, and Zuhayr Qusaybati in London: "Consultations for Formation of 'Salvation' Government in Iraq; Kuwait Watching Military Movements, Calls Up Reserve Force"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait yesterday announced that it had monitored "unusual" military activity inside Iraq; it called up some of its reserves, but emphasized that the measure was not linked to the Iraqi moves. [passage omitted]

AL-HAYAH has learned from sources close to Husayn Kamil that there is an inclination to form "a national salvation government including military and civilian personnel." The sources added that "a salvation government may be announced inside [Iraq] and could include figures who are still in the government or in circles close to it."

They said that "consultations are under way with Iraqi opposition organizations and parties with a view to holding an enlarged meeting in London soon to discuss the new developments and the idea of forming a salvation government whose program would be based on political pluralism in Iraq." [passage omitted]

Regime Disintegration 'Assuming Vast Dimensions'

MM2108194895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Aug 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Kamran Qurrah Daghi: "Iraqi President's Daughter Fails in Attempt to Meet with His Two Daughters in Amman; National Congress Urges Saddam's Family to Rebel and Join the People"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — The Unified Iraqi [National] Congress [UINC] yesterday urged "all parties in (President) Saddam Husayn's family and outside it to rebel against the regime and join the ranks of the people."

Asked by AL-HAYAH about his position regarding figures within the regime if they show willingness to defect from it as General Husayn Kamil, the Iraqi president's son-in-law, did, Ahmad al-Jalabi, chairman of the UINC's Executive Council, said that the UINC "encourages everyone, groups and individuals, to swoop down on Saddam."

He added that the UINC intends "to resume its efforts to win Iraqi Army forces over to the side of the

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opposition forces." He said that the military operations carried out by pro-UINC forces in northern Iraq last March "demonstrated that the Iraqi Army would not defend Saddam's regime. Kamil Husayn's statements in Amman confirmed the poor condition of the Army."

He said that information received from inside Iraq confirms that "the disintegration is assuming vast dimensions following the defection of Husayn Kamil to Jordan, reaching the south, north, and West. In Karkuk, for instance, there are clear signs of collapse. Many government employees no longer go to work, Army units are staying in their camps, and security measures are almost nonexistent at checkpoints."

In another development, informed sources in Amman contacted by AL-HAYAH from London have confirmed that Manal al-Alusi, head of the Iraqi Women's Federation who is close to Saddam, is in the Jordanian capital with one of Saddam's sisters in an attempt to persuade his daughters Raghd and Rana to return to Baghdad. The sources emphasized that al-Alusi has so far been unable to meet with the two daughters.

The same sources also said that the Iraqi authorities interrogated former Oil Minister Safa' al-Habubi, who was believed to be a supporter of Husayn Kamil, but no measures were taken against him and he resumed his work as director general of the Military Industrialization Authority. It has been reported that all employees in that authority have been banned from travel abroad.

The sources also said that two Iraqi merchants who had worked as agents of Husayn Kamil in Amman were arrested in Baghdad, where they happened to be when he fled to Jordan. They are Shawqi al-Kubaysi and Karim al-Khawwam.

According to the same sources, after he was granted political asylum in Jordan, Husayn Kamil tried to take control of a Jordanian company he had bought when he was head of the Military Industrialization Authority. They said that the Jordanian authorities refused to help him on that matter. [passage omitted]

Opposition Radio Urges Cooperation To Topple Regime

NC2108191295 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1520 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kurdistan Toilers Party and the Kurdistan Communist Party have announced their approval of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's [PUK] proposal to hold an emergency meeting of the political leadership of the Kurdistan Front. Agreement by these two parties to the PUK's proposal confirms cooperation and coordination among the Kurdistan Front parties to topple the Iraqi regime. The agreement by the two parties to the PUK's proposal is an expression of their readiness to cooperate, coordinate, and unify plans in any action to expedite the removal of the Iraqi regime.

The PUK's call to the Kurdistan Front parties to hold an emergency meeting to chart a unified plan to overthrow the Iraqi dictatorship reflects the PUK's sincere intention to cooperate with all parties to end the nightmare of the dictatorship. It also reflects the PUK's sound stance on the establishment of peace in Kurdistan. The PUK believes that the central goal worthy of the efforts and potential of all parties is the removal of the dictatorial regime in Iraq. To achieve this goal, struggle must be stepped up and a common framework of cooperation and coordination must be worked out among all Iraqi opposition parties. They must put their marginal differences aside, marshal all resources, and work out a mechanism for joint action to bring down the dictatorial authorities.

Coordination and cooperation among the Kurdistan Front parties to overthrow the dictatorship is certainly a constructive step and an urgent patriotic task. Momentum will strengthen if the Kurdistan Front parties agree with other Kurdish and Iraqi opposition parties to work out a formula to destroy the dictator's strongholds, because the Iraqi regime is now fragmenting and is swiftly nearing its inevitable collapse.

Juburi Shaykh Tells of Past Coup Attempts

MS2108164995 London INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY in English 20 Aug 95 p 11

[Report by Helga Graham incorporating interview with Shaykh Mish'an al-Juburi: "Saddam's Circles of Hatred"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is not yet high noon in Baghdad. But, judging from the extraordinary events of the last few days in the Middle East, the clock's hands are creeping close to the perpendicular.

The flight of Saddam's daughters and sons-in-law to Jordan was caused by a feud and murder within the first circle of power in Iraq — Saddam's immediate family. But the second circle which surrounds the dictator, a circle formed by the Sunni tribal members who run the elite military and intelligence units, has also undergone a partial process of collapse, becoming, in effect, a second circle of hate.

In May this year, the death under torture of an officer of the Dulaymi tribe, following an assassination attempt, provoked riots and widespread arrests in the mainly Duhtimi city of Ramadi. Earlier, a land dispute at the

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village of Zawiyah near Tikrit, Saddam's heartland, turned into a two-week siege and full-scale shoot-out between emergency forces and former soldiers who were members of the Juburi tribe.

Given the importance of the Juburi and Dulaymi tribes to the Iraqi power structure these scenes, too, must have seemed alarming to the ruling family. Jordanian sources say that Husayn Kamil Hasan, Saddam's son-in law, who defected last week and who was the second most powerful man in Iraq, visited Jordan a month ago and confided to King Husayn that the whole of Iraq had become "unworkable". The king advised him discreetly to attempt a coup from within Iraq.

The word "tribes" tends to provoke mental vertigo in the West. Who exactly are these exotic beings? Why are they now alienated? Does it matter?

Few people have a better understanding of this second circle of power in Iraq than a shaykh of the Juburi tribe, Mish'an al-Juburi, who gave his first-ever interview to the Independent on Sunday in London last week.

Mish'an al-Juburi, who came from a poor village near Tikrit, was first brought into Saddam's circle as a young man in 1975. Asked what he wanted by the Iraqi leader, he petitioned only for pensions for poor families in his region.

Saddam gave him a car, $11,000 and granted his wish to become a journalist. So Saddam bought my loyalty," he said. "I truly admired him. He talked of freedom and socialism. This meant that thousands of my tribe could eat, our schools were no longer of mudbrick. We had roads.

"Our lives changed, especially after electricity which until then only the cities had. We believed that electricity and everything came directly from Saddam, not understanding the quadrupling of the oil price. We were ready to die for him."

Mish'an al-Juburi's biggest chance came in 1982-1983. At the height of Iraq's 1982 defeats in battles with Iran, Saddam jettisoned the socialist principles of the Ba'th party and sought salvation in the ancient tribal values. Accompanied by Mish'an al-Juburi, he visited Tikrit and the small towns of Biji and Sharqwat to recruit some 50,000 young men from the largest Sunni tribes, the Juburi. The next largest tribe, the Dulaymi, were also approached by Saddam at that time.

"He saw that the Juburi were brave," says Mish'an al-Juburi. "Even when living in towns they still had the values of tribal villagers — communal spirit belief in honour and an admiration for valour. Desertion in battle — a big problem for Saddam at the time — is unthinkable."

The new recruits were intended as Saddam's personal bodyguard which would protect him from the army, and to set up the Republican and Special Guards.

Additionally, young tribal officers with ten years' army experience were promoted to the top of the army and the special units. In intelligence training centres, Juburis and Dulaymis were, after Tikritis, selected for promotion.

As one of the architects of Iraq's new tribal infrastructure, Mish'an al-Juburi's star continued to rise. He became an intimate friend of Saddam's son, 'Udayy, and makes no bones about enjoying the pleasures of Baghdad in this privileged circle. "As a shaykh, you can do anything in Baghdad," he says with a wolfish grin.

The clash between Saddam's dictatorship and tribal values began to emerge in the late 1980s. Mish'an al-Juburi himself drew down the displeasure of the regime when he went on television and denounced the incompetence of the hospital services following the death of his young son.

A brief period in jail followed. During this time, the scales fell from his eyes. The gap between Saddam's words and actions, between talk of honour and freedom and the actuality of torture chambers and acid baths became unbridgeable in his mind.

After he was released, he says, "I couldn't sleep normally. I went to hotels to hide. I dreaded that they knew what I was thinking. Once in the night I saw 'Udayy's bodyguards on the security television screen. 'Udayy only wanted my gold Piaget watch, but I was terrified."

Mish'an began to withdraw from his personal role in the regime, and went into business, exporting wool — "very profitably" — from his tribal area to Britain. Discreetly, he began to move his own money out of the country. But it was not until 1989 that he actively became involved in a coup attempt.

A former classmate, a Captain Sattam al-Juburi, whom he had helped become a captain in the Republican Guard, asked him to assist in placing fellow Juburis in special positions in the same unit. Suspecting nothing, Mish'an phoned several members of Saddam's family to request these favours.

But Captain Sattam was, in fact, planning the most serious pre-Gulf War coup with large-scale support in tank and artillery units, due to take place on Army Day in 1990.

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Taking Mish'an into his confidence, Sattam told him: "Saddam's massacres will dishonour us in history. How do we face our own children? We have to stop the brutality."

He asked Mish'an, with his special knowledge of the ruling elite, to assess the reaction to a democratic revolution, especially in the army. Mish'an concluded that the army was loyal to Iraq rather than Saddam. The Republican Guard and special intelligence units were more concerned with their own self-preservation and would go along provided their own safety was promised. Mish'an left Iraq to be ready to explain the democratic aims of the coup in the West.

But at the last minute, the plot was discovered and the Army Day celebrations were cancelled. The coup plotters were killed, Sattam himself refusing to speak under torture. Mish'an remained overseas, the sole survivor.

This coup was a critical point in initiating the bad blood between Saddam and the highly placed Juburi in the military. There followed a kind of Carry On Conspiring atmosphere, as Juburi masterminded two further attempted coups.

In 1991, Juburi pilots bombed one of Saddam's safe houses missing him by minutes. A year later, Mish'an al-Juburi's brother, Shaykh Dira', was the centre of a bizarre plot against Saddam which was described by the former US Secretary of State, James Baker, as the most significant attempt on Saddam's life since the Gulf War.

Shaykh Dira' played a curious role in Saddam's household as the leader's former bodyguard, but he was also a famous faith healer and mystic who was able to cure Saddam's violent migraine headaches by putting a cloth over his master's head and touching his shoulder with the tip of a sword. Dira' was thus uniquely, allowed to bear arms in Saddam's presence. The plan was to use this privilege to decapitate the dictator.

But he and an associate in the intelligence services were betrayed — and executed by having dynamite detonated in their mouths. After their deaths, tens of thousands of people from all tribes defied an official ban and turned out to pay their respects to the two men. This display of mass disobedience gave warning of the scale of disaffection in the Tikriti heartland.

As each plot unfolded, executions and dismissals followed, and the circle of hatred around Saddam expanded. Given the strength of tribal solidarity, this rebellious spirit is far more difficult to eradicate than in a conventional army.

And it is not a conflict that Saddam — or any dictator who might follow him — can win. He has moved hundreds of Juburis out of the leadership and relies now on smaller tribes with lesser ambitions.

But the allied Juburi and Dulaymi are simply too numerous for Saddam ever to gain his former security.

The series of coups also point up an unsuspected radical current that has sprung up among the important military and tribal sections of the country. The combination of tribal pride and their suffering in the Iran-Iraq war and subsequent conflicts have led to a turning point: the demand for a share of power and wealth — for all of them.

As the Middle East and the world awaits the next development, Mish'an al-Juburi welcomes the defection of Husayn Kamil, who is thought to have escaped with almost 20m pounds in state funds, which means the Iraqi opposition can for the first time operate independently of American funds.

"We of the second rank of the Iraqi establishment have not so far succeeded," says Mish'an al-Juburi. "Kamil in the first rank has knowledge that may allow him to break through. His family has killed hundreds of mine... but I think about lives to be saved in the future, not past deaths.

"If you demand an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, Iraqis would be blind and toothless."

Ex-Intelligence Chief Gives Saddam 6 Months

AU2108131795 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 21 Aug 95 p 122

[Interview with former Intelligence Chief Wafiq Samarra'i, who "fled to Jordan in January 1995," by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "The Countdown Has Begun"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Are Saddam Husayn's days numbered?

[Samarra'i] The flight of his daughters and sons-in-law certainly was not the last trumpet-call. I know Saddam Husayn, and I also know that he has survived many crises, including very serious ones.

[DER SPIEGEL] The people who fled were important pillars of the regime; now Husayn Kamil has called for a coup. King Husayn of Jordan ousted Saddam's son Uday when he demanded the extradition of the individuals who fled. How long can the dictator stay in power by force?

[Samarra'i] Bloodbaths and torture cannot prevent his overthrow but can only postpone it for some time.

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Saddam has lost credibility, not only among the afflicted Iraqi people. The flight of his son-in-law and first fellow fighter, as Saddam publicly praised Husayn Kamil Hasan who was promoted overnight from lieutenant to staff general, has now also made clear to the last Army officer that even his closest aides have lost confidence in the president and leader.

[DER SPIEGEL] Are you expecting a military putsch soon?

[Samarra'i] The countdown has begun, Saddam can stay in power for another six months at the most. Whether he will be ousted by a lightning action of the Army, an uprising of the people, or both, is unimportant. In any case, no Iraqi will ever risk his life for Saddam again.

[DER SPIEGEL] Not even the Republican Guards or the newly created Saddam-Fedayin, which were sworn in by the president by blood oath?

[Samarra'i] When the people and the Army rise, it is all settled, the Praetorians cannot save him. Saddam has no leeway for political maneuver any more. For Iraqis, the betrayal is just one more proof that the Saddam clique is a gang of liars and adventurers denouncing each other and even killing each other, if necessary, to save their own skin. Everyone spies on everyone else.

[DER SPIEGEL] Saddam has survived the defeat in the Gulf war, the Shi'ite uprising in the south, and the loss of control over the Kurdish area in the north. There have been attempts to overthrow him again and again — so far, without success.

[Samarra'i] The flight of his daughters, the breach of loyalty by the most important official in charge of secrets, the people's constantly deteriorating living conditions — all this is now threatening Saddam and may result in an explosion at any time.

[DER SPIEGEL] Could you imagine Husayn Kamil Hasan as a successor to his father-in-law?

[Samarra'i] It is less his person that matters. It should be left to the people to decide who should take over the leadership.

[DER SPIEGEL] The opposition considers Husayn Kamil a war criminal. In Kuwait and Kurdistan, he allegedly acted as mercilessly as his sponsor Saddam.

[Samarra'i] Terrible things always happen in wars. In Kuwait, the actual criminal was Ali Hasan el-Madshid, the former interior minister and intelligence service chief.

[DER SPIEGEL] Doesn't the opposition compromise itself by accepting someone in its ranks who is partly responsible for Saddam's crimes?

[Samarra'i] I am glad to see that Husayn Kamil has publicly broken with the past. Every Saddam aide, seeking his overthrow and endorsing — if late — democratic principles, must be welcome. If we announce trials of war criminals, the result will be that we offend all the responsible people in Saddam's surroundings who are ready to join the opposition, and we will force them to defend the regime.

[DER SPIEGEL] How seriously should the split opposition be taken at all?

[Samarra'i] It is not split, but only divided into groups with different political views. However, all of Saddam's opponents have agreed on a common denominator: In the Iraq of tomorrow, there must be real democracy with pluralism and constitutional institutions. The Kurds have a right to real self-administration, and our relations with our neighbors should never again be overshadowed by hegemonic aspirations.

[DER SPIEGEL] Why were you loyal to the regime for such a long time?

[Samarra'i] Like all the others, I had to do my job. Privately, I had long been in opposition.

[DER SPIEGEL] In your position as intelligence chief, you could have dissuaded Saddam from carrying out that absurd invasion of Kuwait.

[Samarra'i] If I had done so, frankly, I would have been assassinated. But my friends and I have time and again pointed out to him the danger of a clash with the United States. That already was too much. I had to flee. My friends are still alive — Saddam has never known their names.

Former Defense Minister's Brother on Media, Iran 'Lies'

JN2008170395 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1510 GMT 20 Aug 95

[Interview with Hashim Hasan al-Majid, brother of former Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid and former Babil governor, by TV correspondent Sham'un Matti; place and date not given; from the "Evening Newspaper" feature —recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Matti] Brothers, the MBC [Middle East Broadcasting Corporation] television network carried the following report: The Iranian News Agency said Hashim Hasan al- Majid, brother of former Iraqi Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, has escaped from Baghdad with a group of ranking Republican Guards officers to the Iraqi city of Mosul in the north.

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We are glad to meet now with Hashim Hasan al-Majid to speak to you about these media lies.

[Al-Majid] Thank you very much. I do not know how to begin. In these current circumstances, I am pained by what one of the traitors [General Husayn Kamil Hasan] has done—regrettably, he is one of our family. I feel pain in all my senses for reasons related to heritage and roots. This means that I will not be comfortable and satisfied while this criminal is alive. The second thing, is my great eagerness and my prayers to Almighty God to preserve the leader for ever for this noble people and for humanity everywhere. What pains me is that he belongs to the entire family and not to himself.

What does it mean if I am in Mosul, or al-Basrah, or any other city in Iraq. However, my personal belief is that a bankrupt person searches for something that probably would satisfy 10, 20, or 50 of his agents in order to give them a new push. But the 10 or the 20 agents similar to this criminal who escaped do not constitute anything. Regrettably, I say again that he belongs to this family.

As for Iran, it is known for its falsehood and lies, and not just today. When I was Babil governor, they said that I slaughtered or killed several people; they said I had been assassinated; they said I had been kidnapped, in addition to other lies. These people are known. As for what MBC reported, MBC is controlled by a clique of agents, and by Saudi Arabia in particular. Hence, what do we expect from these people? If that report was true, what has Hashim Hasan al-Majid to do with the Republican Guards forces? He is a civil servant, what is his connection with the officers? This shows their political and media bankruptcy.

Finally, we are soldiers and with all our potentials will sacrifice our souls for the sake of the leader. My family and I, today, tomorrow and all times are ready to do anything, and we pray to Almighty God to preserve the leader and the good people in Iraq and the Arabs. Thank you.

[Matti] Thank you very much Hashim Hasan al-Majid.

[Al-Majid] Thank you, may God bless you.

INA Reports on Tariq 'Aziz Interview With CNN

JN2008102395 Baghdad INA in English 0910 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 20, INA — Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has stressed that President Saddam Husayn is supported by love and trust of all Iraqis.

In an interview with the CNN correspondent in Baghdad on Saturday, 'Aziz said that President Husayn is counting much on his people, party and Army in leading Iraq and have the trust and love of all the Iraqi people as a whole and supported by them.

He denied any abnormal military moves in Iraq during the last few weeks, saying that there were training exercises of the aerial defence bodies clarified by Minister of Defence General Sultan Ahmad Hashim few days before.

He described relations with Jordan as good as they always were emphasising that they would never be soured for we look at Jordan as an Arab country linked with Iraq by strong ties and we always seek to develop these relations. A constant behaviour was always there between the two countries, namely, not interfering in others internal affairs.

The American intentions are hostile to Iraq and the U.S wants to seize any opportunity to confuse the situation around Iraq and provoke it to plunge it into certain kinds of confrontations whether being involved in or with others. [words indistinct], he asserted.

Concerning the U.S. veto against any possible UN resolution in favor of Iraq, Mr 'Aziz said that whatsoever related to Iraq, the resolution is not an American one for America is blockading Cuba which is an individual decision made by its own against Cuba, but the situation is different with Iraq for it needs an international resolution to be taken by the Security Council. The decision-making process is undertaken by the fifteen member states in the council and if the council has come to a satisfaction that Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations and if any member decided to use the veto against the will of the majority in the council and its permanent's member states, then it would be a critical situation for the Security Council, he referred.

The American Administration should put before its eyes the right conclusions and the right results of such a decision, he hinted.

The deputy premier has also refuted allegations circulated by the imperialist circles about Iraq intentions against its neighbours, confirming that all of them are baseless.

He expressed Iraq's sincere desire to normalise relations with the world states and the Security Council and commitment to the UN resolutions so that the anti-Iraq embargo would be lifted.

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Citizens Said Pleased With King Husayn's Statement on Ties

JN2208081995 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 22 Aug 95 p 19

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad—The recent press statements by His Majesty King Husayn — in which he stressed that Jordanian-Iraqi relations are good — were received with great satisfaction by Iraqi officials and citizens.

Iraqi citizens from various walks of life told AL-ASWAQ: We were glad to hear His Majesty King Husayn's statements. We consider him an honest official, just like his Hashemite forefathers. They also stressed that Jordan is the only artery that supplies Iraq and its people.

Meanwhile, an official at the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad stressed that Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan has not changed anything in the relationship between the two countries, in terms of meetings with Iraqi officials and facilities provided for Jordanian citizens who have commercial and other ties with Iraq. He added that Iraqi-Jordanian relations are very strong and good. He noted that Jordanian citizens did not face any harassment whatsoever.

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Peres on Jerusalem Bus Bomb, Charges of 'Traitor'

TA2108180895 (Internet) Israel Information Service in English 21 Aug 95

["Press stakeout" with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres following his meeting with German Minister of International Cooperation Carl-Dieter Spranger on 21 August; place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] FM Peres: I would like to start by saying that it is a very difficult day for us, a very sad occasion. I don't want to deny or belittle the sadness and the agony that we are going through. Yet, even when it is such a sad occasion and such a difficult hour, we must remain strong and clear in our decisions and destinies.

Israel has to do two things simultaneously: One is to fight terror, without any hesitation, without any interruption, without any limitation, to do whatever is necessary to stop, to preempt, to bring to justice the people who are responsible for this terrible act of murder. We shall do it.

Then, we have to continue and build a different situation in the Middle East, to bring peace to our people. I know it is very difficult. I know that there are people and organizations who are trying to stop and kill it. We shall not submit to them either. We shall not submit to the terror that kills or to the terror that is trying to stop the peace process. We shall continue.

Even at this very difficult hour, we are clearly determined to do these two things independently, because, in a way, they complete each other: to fight terrorism and to build peace, at the same time — by different means, and without one effort affecting the other.

Q: [On the position of the Palestinian Authority]

FM Peres: The PA took a very clear position against terror and terrorism. They know that terror is aimed against them, not only against us; that if there is something that can stop the Palestinian hopes and destiny, it is Palestinian terror. Palestinian terror and Palestinian negation cost the Palestinian people dearly during the times of the mufti and the early times of terror. Were it not for the refusal of the Palestinians to negotiate in the past, were it not for the attempt of the Palestinians to kill the peace process for so long, the Palestinians would be today in an entirely different situation. They themselves are the victims of the mistakes that were made in the past. Today I feel that among the Palestinians there is a leadership, including Mr. Arafat, who has changed its policy - because he feels it serves peace and it serves also the Palestinian needs for the future. I do hope that the two real camps in the Middle East will be the camp of dialogue against a camp of violence.

Q: Is there any way to stop the killings?

FM Peres: If there is a way, we shall not hesitate to take it. Unfortunately, it happens in many countries. Today terror is being spread all over the world. It is becoming a world issue, here perhaps more than in many other places, but we shall win this war, too. We were used to take casualties and cost in time of war. Terror is a war, too, and while we are fighting this war, we are also fighting for peace. Because we would like to end this war not just by a military victory, but also by a political victory.

Q: Are you in effect in a race against time to sign Oslo 2 before these terror attacks turn Israeli public opinion against the agreement altogether?

FM Peres: No, we are not in a race. I think basically the majority of the Israelis support what we are doing, and I don't know anybody in Israel that seriously has an alternative. I know that there are people who protest, but I don't know people who have an alternative. What is the alternative? Suppose we would remain in Gaza for another 10 or 15 years. What would it serve us? Today, in Gaza, the Palestinian Authority is beginning to fight terror very seriously, and trying to introduce the only alternative to terror, which is negotiations.

Q: [On the ongoing talks with the Palestinians]

FM Peres: Tomorrow there won't be any talks, because tomorrow will be a very sad day for all of our nation. Tomorrow there will unfortunately be funerals of innocent people, and our hearts are with the families that have lost their dearest, and with each of the wounded people in the hospitals.

Q: President Weizman was at the site this morning. Neither you nor the Prime Minister visited there. Are you afraid to face the public?

FM Peres: We are not afraid. We understand that there is a great deal of chagrin and sorrow among the people. We can understand the anger, and we don't want to provoke any more. I think that we have to handle things with great care and great consideration. It has nothing to do with fear.

Q: You have been called 'traitor' by many people. How do you feel about this?

FM Peres: If you want to change a situation, you shouldn't be surprised that many people are against it. Most people prefer to remember rather than to think. What I am doing is not in order to please anybody or to please myself. I am doing my duty, out of deep conviction. I don't think that our country or the Arab countries have a better alternative. We can't go on

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shooting and killing and hating. I know that you need a certain courage for peace, as you need a certain kind for war. You cannot run away. I know that many people do not believe that we can attain it. I know that many people are angry with what we are doing. I can understand their anger, I can understand their mistrust. But I really do not know a better alternative to offer our people. So what I am doing is out of deep conviction and a clear conscience.

Q: Has the time not come for Israel to impose higher security measures?

FM Peres: Israel is imposing all the tight measures which are necessary to fight terror. I don't know of any measure that was offered to the government by the professional people that we have rejected.

Q: But the closure of Gaza was just lifted yesterday, and now we have this terrorist attack in Jerusalem today.

FM Peres: Yes, it was closed for one reason, today it's for a different reason. We didn't initiate it, but we cannot ignore it.

Beilin on Peace Prospects Following Bomb Attack

MM2208090095 London ITV Television Network in English 1800 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Interview with Yosi Beilin in Jerusalem, by Zeinab Badawi in London, on 21 August; from the "Channel Four" News broadcast — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Badawi] Well I've been speaking to Yosi Beilin, an Israeli cabinet minister in Jerusalem. A short time ago I asked him whether today's bomb attack had shattered faith in his government's role in the peace process.

[Beilin] Well the shock is of course big, and the moment is a very grave one. The tragic is big but we are not going to stop the process. We did not negotiate today with the Palestinians because it was very difficult against the background of the funerals and of the event itself to continue to negotiate. But it won't take long before we will resume the talks with the Palestinians.

[Badawi] Well you are due to sign an agreement on extending Palestinian self rule in Washington next month, does that now look on course?

[Beilin] Yes I hope that it won't be impossible to sign this agreement in the coming weeks. Had we done something different that would have been the biggest prize for the terrorists.

[Badawi] But surely you must be concerned, today we saw demonstrations by Jewish people openly denouncing your prime minister Yitzaq Rabin.

[Beilin] Of course it doesn't make our life easier, the situation is a very tense one. That is something which happens whenever there is such a tragic event. But if you ask me whether these demonstrations will prevent us from going on my answer will be negative.

[Badawi] Are you confident Mr Beilin, that security is safe in the hands of the Palestinian authority?

[Beilin] The level of being sure is of course a limited one. I cannot say that I am 100 percent sure that the security in the hands of the Palestinians is safe there. But what we can say is that they are doing much more than ever in the past in order to prevent a terrorist attack against Israel. They succeeded in many events, in the past weeks it was possible for us, both Israelis and Palestinians, to prevent such terrorist attacks, of course regretfully this did not happen today, but I believe that the cooperation between the Palestinian authority and Israel is a solid one and that both of us will be able to attacks in the future.

[Badawi] If you truly support Mr 'Arafat as you say you do, why not give him something tangible to sell to his people, to show that they have a vested interest in the peace process, by for example, removing Israeli troops from Hebron?

[Beilin] Well as you know we are negotiating now about the redeployment of Israeli defense forces from the big cities in the West Bank, Hebron is one of these cities and we are negotiating about Hebron too of course. So the result of the negotiations once the Palestinian authority is extended to these cities of the West bank will be the most important fruit of the peace process.

[Badawi] Are you absolutely confident that you can carry the Israeli people with you?

[Beilin] First of all we've got a mandate for four years and we should use this mandate in order to make peace. Then we should ask the people to support us again and I hope that the people will support those who made peace for the next generations.

Weizman on Proceeding to Permanent Arrangement

TA2208090195 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Aug 95 pp 1, 2

[Report on interview with President 'Ezer Weizman by Avraham Tirosh'; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Where does it say that pursuing the talks with the Palestinians is what matters most? Are we fighting terror hard enough? Should we get out of all the Arab cities in Judaea and Samaria now?" — President 'Ezer Weizman rhetorically said in an

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interview with MA'ARIV following the bombing in Jerusalem.

The president reiterated his position that the talks with the Palestinians should now be suspended and the situation should be reassessed. "At the moment we must think more about the Israeli people and less about what the Palestinians will say," he stated.

Weizman added: "It must be clear that we are fighting against a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] force sitting in our midst and in the midst of the Palestinians. I am not sure that 'Arafat can solve this problem; he is not Mubarak.

[Tirosh] So, perhaps the negotiations with him are worthless and should be halted altogether?

[Weizman] We must sit down and take stock of the situation. We cannot go on this way. I suppose the government will have no choice but to reach conclusions. I am pleased that at this stage it accepted my suggestion and decided to suspend the talks at least until after the seven-day mourning period. [end Weizman]

Responding to the argument that halting the talks would play into the hands of Hamas and all other peace opponents, the president said: "That argument drives me up the wall. Where does it say that these talks are what matters most? In my opinion, we should proceed directly to the permanent arrangement. I think there can be no interim arrangement here, because such an arrangement is only possible between situation A and situation B. But when there is no situation B at all, what is the point of an interim arrangement?

[Tirosh] But the interim arrangement is an outcome of the Camp David accords, of which you were one of the engineers.

[Weizman] So what? That is how it was called in Camp David, but if it is not good and does not suit the current situation, is the government obliged to stick to it?

[Tirosh] If talks are held now about the permanent arrangement the question of Jerusalem will come up at once.

[Weizman] Jerusalem should really be discussed now, when we are still in control of all places. When will we talk about Jerusalem, when we are only in control of Latrun? [end Weizman]

Last night the president announced the postponement of his state visit to Germany and Czechoslovakia scheduled for December. He said that in the current times he feels it is his duty to stay in Israel. Yesterday morning Weizman notified German President Roman Herzog and Czech President Vaclav Havel of his decision.

Knesset To Meet in Special Session Over Attack

TA2108172995 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 21 Aug 95

[Issued by Knesset spokeswoman Sari Yitzhaqi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Likud and Labor Knesset factions have submitted a request to Speaker Shevah Weiss to convene the Knesset in the wake of today's terrorist attack in Jerusalem. The Speaker decided to convene a special Knesset session on Monday, 28.08.95. The Speaker appreciates the fact that the MK's [Knesset members] who initiated the special session supported the idea that the discussion be held at the beginning of next week, in order to enable MK's to prepare for a serious and substantive discussion after all the conclusions about the attack will have been drawn. The Speaker sharply condemns those who perpetrated the crime, shares in the sorrow of the bereaved families, and wishes a speedy recovery to the injured.

Closure Imposed Until 23 Aug; Roadblocks Set Up

TA2108181395 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1630 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Talk between anchorwoman Mickey Haimowich, in the studio, and correspondent Roni Daniyel, at the site of this morning's terrorist bombing in Jerusalem's Giv'at Eshkol neighborhood — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Haimowich] Our correspondent Roni Daniyel is at the scene of today's explosion in the Ramat Eshkol neighborhood. Roni, what is the situation now at the intersection?

[Daniyel] Well, Mickey, there was a small demonstration for several minutes which slowed traffic on the road but failed to block it completely. However, things have now calmed down. There are memorial candles on the wall near the road and several people praying. Things are quiet and there are almost no signs of what took place this morning.

[Haimowich] Roni, have the security forces made any decisions on future changes in their redeployment following today's terrorist attack?

[Daniyel] Well, there is at least an assessment that those responsible for today's bombing will seek to carry out another attack in the coming days. As for the closure, it was decided to extend the closure until Wednesday [23 August] for the time being; however, some other operational decisions were also made during the discussions at the Prime Minister's Office. Starting tomorrow morning, the security forces will start checking cars in the main towns on the West Bank. In other words, until today they have checked cars entering Jerusalem at

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the al-Ram junction. From now on, the vehicles will be examined at the exits from Hebron, Nabulus, and other towns. Roadblocks will be set up at these places and cars will be checked. As we speak, reinforcements are already being sent to these locations and by morning these new directives will be enforced. That is an operational decision.

[Haimowich] So there will now be additional roadblocks in West Bank towns. Roni Daniyel, thank you very much.

Police Contain Demonstrations Over Jerusalem Attack

TA2108183095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Right-wing demonstrations are still under way at several junctions throughout the country, and the police are handling the demonstrators with firmness. In most places, no traffic disruptions have been reported. Our correspondents report that over 30 demonstrators have been detained in various locations so far. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that a police officer was injured by a stone hurled by a demonstrator in Jerusalem's Sanhedriya junction. This demonstration was dispersed with water cannon.

The Jerusalem District Police spokesman told our correspondent Gil Litman that for the first time in a long period, the capital's police are today equipped with tear gas to disperse demonstrations.

Demonstrators were detained in the following locations: the Jerusalem approach; downtown Qiryat Ata; Golani junction; the 'Imanu'el junction in Samaria; the Sirkin junction; the Netanya junction; and the vicinity of the northbound railroad station in Tel Aviv. The reports were filed by our correspondents Ya'el Ayalon, Yafa Glick, Esti Perez, Shim'on Vilna'i, Shay Razi'eli, Nisim Qeynan, and Ilan Ro'e.

Casualties, Details of Bus Explosion Reported

TA2208045995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chief Superintendent No'am Eisenman, who was killed yesterday in the terrorist bus bombing in Ramot Eshkol, will be buried this morning. The funeral procession will leave the funeral home on Shamgar Street at 1030 this morning and make its way to the police burial plot on Mount Herzl. The funeral of Rivqa Kohen, who was also killed in the terrorist attack was held last night in Jerusalem.

The police have announced that five people were killed in the explosion. The bodies of a man and woman have still not been identified, and police believe that the male corpse is that of the suicide bomber.

The American tourist killed in the explosion is 46-year-old Joan Davenney, a teacher from Connecticut. She was spending a year in Israel studying Judaism. Joan Davenney's parents and sisters live in Israel, and her husband and daughter are due to arrive in the country today. No date has been set for her funeral, but it has been reported that she will be buried in Israel.

Twenty-eight of those wounded in yesterday's bombing attack are still hospitalized in Jerusalem hospitals. Six of the wounded are in serious condition. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad was informed by Hadassah Hospital that the condition of two women, previously reported as being in critical condition, has somewhat improved, but that their lives are still in danger. Today, some of the people who sustained light injuries will be released from hospital.

Cabinet Approves Transfer of 8 More Powers to PA

TA2008120995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister has ordered proposals for the immediate solution of the water plight in Hebron to be submitted to him. They are to be implemented before long-term solutions can be realized.

Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur, who is slated to discuss water issues with Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] and his aides in Elat this evening, has expressed the hope that the negotiations will make progress.

Water Commissioner Gid'on Tzur says Israel must continue developing water resources for the use of Arabs. In the coming year, the population of Judaea and Samaria will need an addition of some 10 million cubic meters of drinking water, which will be brought in from the territory of the State of Israel.

The cabinet today approved the transfer of eight powers to the Palestinian Authority [PA] in the spheres of gas and fuel, trade and industry, transportation, insurance, labor, postal services, agriculture, statistics, and local authority.

The Likud announced in reaction that the government continues to establish an infrastructure for a Palestinian state within the 1967 lines. This is another instance of the implementation of the government's commitment to 'Arafat to establish facts on the ground prior to the next elections, the Likud said.

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Assessments Indicate Accord May Be Done Within Month

TA2008125795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During consultations held at the Prime Minister's Office prior to the cabinet meeting this morning it was assessed that it would be possible to sign the Oslo B accord within a month. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that participating in the consultations, in addition to the prime minister and foreign minister, were Ministers Sarid, Shahal, and Baraq; Chief of Staff Shahaq; and Major General 'Uzi Dayan, the head of General Staff's Planning Branch. It was noted at the consultations that progress has been made in the negotiations, but that problems remain on three issues: Hebron, prisoners, and water. The negotiations will resume this evening, and an additional status assessment will be held at the end of the week when it will be decided whether and when the foreign minister or the prime minister will meet with 'Arafat.

Peres Adviser Denies 'Secret' Message on Jerusalem

TA2008085095 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Yo'av Limor in London and Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Text] An Arabic daily published in London has reported that Minister Shim'on Peres promised PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in a secret message that the official negotiations on the future of Jerusalem will start this coming January and not within the framework of the deliberations on the permanent settlement, which will begin in early May. Israel has denied the report.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on Friday quoted Palestinian sources as saying that the message Peres sent 'Arafat "deals with the change in the Israeli position on Jerusalem" and expresses "a readiness to start official negotiations next January instead of May, as agreed in the Declaration of Principles." The Arabic daily notes that a senior Israeli official confirmed the existence of the message.

The Palestinian sources also said that "the PLO agreed to the Israeli request that Jerusalem residents vote for the council elections in Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Jericho."

Behira Bardugo, the foreign minister's media adviser, said: "The report is baseless. The issue of Jerusalem was not raised at all in the Taba talks."

Police Fear 'Serious' Riots Over Orient House

TA1808131395 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Doron Me'iri]

[FBIS Translated Text] An intelligence report drafted by the police recently states that the presence of high-ranking foreign officials at Orient House is liable to generate ferment among right-wing elements and to lead to serious riots and bloodshed.

The report, which was compiled by intelligence and operations elements at the Jerusalem District Police and the National Headquarters, was handed to Police Minister Moshe Shahal two days ago. In the wake of the report, Shahal advised Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to call off the arrival of the Swedish foreign minister, who was scheduled to visit Orient House this week.

Having received the report, Shahal warned yesterday that in view of the agitation and the general atmosphere in the right-wing organizations, any political activity at Orient House is liable to provoke riots in that location.

A senior police officer explained yesterday: "Our intelligence officers have come up with grim and sinister assessments. They have extensive connections in the field, and their assessments must not be underestimated. The atmosphere is constantly heating up in Jerusalem, and we fear an imminent explosion."

Security Sources: 'No Chance' Saddam Will Fire Scuds

TA2008080595 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Aug 95 pp 1, 2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There is no chance that Saddam Husayn will fire Scud missiles at Israel, security sources said.

Their assessment comes in the wake of remarks by a leader of the Iraqi opposition, exiled in London, who claimed in an interview with Ehud Ya'ari on Israel Television Channel 1 on Friday that Saddam still has 37 operational Scuds and that if his regime collapses, he will launch them against Israel in a farewell barrage. The Iraqi opposition leader said Saddam could outfit the Scuds with chemical or biological warheads. [passage omitted]

The Israeli security sources believe that Saddam's regime is not collapsing despite the defection of his daughters and sons-in-law; that Saddam does not have any intention of attacking Kuwait or Jordan; and that he is very far from feeling desperate. The American show of force, the sources said, is impressive and is enough to

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deter Saddam from any aggressive intentions he might have had.

As for Saddam's technical capability, other security sources believe that the data provided by the Iraqi opposition leader is exaggerated. It is hard to believe that Saddam has the ability to launch dozens of missiles or to arm them with nuclear, chemical, or biological warheads.

Complaint Lodged Over Syria's Backing of 'Terror'

TA2208085695 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel sharply complained to the United States yesterday about Syria's backing Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, and the rejectionist organizations in their murderous attacks on Israeli targets.

The issue came up in a meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk. Over the next few days Israel intends to discuss the issue at length with the United States.

In a statement in Jerusalem Rabin stressed that Hamas had assumed responsibility for the bombing in Jerusalem in an announcement broadcast from Damascus-based al-Quds Radio.

Israel has many times complained to the United States that although it sits around the same table with Israel to conduct political peace negotiations, Syria continues to provide shelter as well as financial, economic, and logistical support to 10 rejectionist organizations.

Moreover, Syria aids Lebanese organizations, primarily Hizballah, that operate against Israel and the security zone in south Lebanon.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Dennis Ross, head of the U.S. peace team, relayed Israel's complaints to Syria.

Israel believes that in the case of both Lebanon and the Palestinians, Syria resorts to terror in a bid to persuade Israel to return to the negotiating table. Consequently, yesterday it allowed Hamas and al-Quds Radio to stretch the line with Israel to the maximum. Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich will apparently bring up the matter in his talks at the State Department this week. [passage omitted]

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Weekly Reports Failed Iraqi 'Coup Attempt'

JN2208071595 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic 23 Aug 95 p 1

["Exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed Iraqi sources have revealed that a failed coup occurred in Baghdad in the past few days.

AL-HADATH sources say that three senior officers, with the rank of major general, were arrested after this attempt. One brigadier general and two colonels were also arrested.

The sources say that two Army brigades moved on four fronts to storm the radio station, the intelligence services headquarters, the Presidential Palace, and the military intelligence headquarters at 0400 on that day. The attempt would have succeeded had it not been for the failure of the group that tried to storm the military intelligence headquarters.

The attempt was followed by an extensive campaign of liquidation that involved those who planned the operation, including Khaz'al al-Tikriti (a major general), Salman al-Tikriti (a major general), Muhammad 'Umar al-Tikriti (a major general), Yunus al-Tikriti (a brigadier general), Sa'd al-Tikriti and Najm Radi 'Abbud (colonels).

AL-HADATH learned that the coup attempt was carried out in cooperation with the Iraqi shiite leader, Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim.

Source Denies Iraqi Threat To Cut Oil Supplies

JN2108205595 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 21 Aug 95 p 3

[Report by 'Umar Kullab]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Political and popular circles have received with delight His Majesty King Husayn's recent statements asserting that Jordan has always been Iraq's lifeline and open gate, as well as the Iraqi leadership's statements stressing Iraq's eagerness to maintain its relations with Jordan.

A Foreign Ministry source has asserted to AL-ASWAQ that Iraqi-Jordanian relations have not been affected, that they are still brotherly, and that rumors on Iraqi threats to cut oil supplies from Jordan are unfounded.

The source added that Jordan had not discussed with Saudi Arabia the possibility of Jordan purchasing Saudi oil if Iraqi oil supplies are cut, because Iraq has not said it will cut its oil supplies to Jordan. The source also asserted that Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission in charge of scrapping weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, is due to meet with General Husayn Kamil Hasan in Amman. The source added that Jordan has not objected to the meeting that will take place in Amman today. [passage omitted]

22 People Reportedly Fled Iraq With Kamil

JN2208073495 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 22 Aug 95 pp 1, 19

[Report by Nabil Ghishan]

[FBIS Translated Text] A high-level government source has confirmed to AL-ASWAQ that His Majesty King Husayn has for himself ascertained that the Iraqi president's two daughters do not wish to return to Iraq.

The source told AL-ASWAQ that the government is not upset with the moves of the Iraqi ambassador in Amman, nor with his meeting with the former prime ministers and raising the issue of the wives of Husayn Kamil and his brother as a case of honor.

The source said that His Majesty King Husayn has hosted a banquet for the Iraqi guests, including the Iraqi president's daughters, and that his majesty heard from them personally that they do not wish to return to Iraq. The source cites Rana and Raghad as telling his majesty the king: "We are like your daughters."

The high-level government source corrected news reports that spoke about the number of the persons who fled Iraq. He said that the official documents that he has seen include the names of 22 persons, 13 of whom are members of the families of Husayn Kamil and his brother, and not 30 persons as was reported earlier.

The source added that the news agencies were also wrong when they reported that Sajidah Khayrallah, the wife of the Iraqi president arrived in Amman to meet with her daughters. The source said that the woman who arrived in Amman was their paternal aunt. She met with them and later left Amman.

Meanwhile, the government source said that General Husayn Kamil is not an alternative to the Iraqi president, but, rather, is a basic part of the regime. His escape, the source added, was due to personal reasons and he cannot be an alternative to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The Jordanian official said: We are concerned about any change in Iraq, and we have an interest in talking to everybody — the people and the leadership — in preparation for any forthcoming change.

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Ekeus Arrives, To Meet 'Senior Officials'

JN2108185595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission entrusted with dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, arrived in Amman this afternoon on a visit to Jordan during which he will meet with a number of senior officials. He was received at the airport by Nabil al-Talhuni, head of the International Organizations Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Ekeus spoke to reporters on arrival. Asked about the results of his latest visit to Iraq, he said that his talks in Baghdad were extraordinary because the Iraqi authorities provided him with information Iraq had earlier withheld from the commision. He noted that his team has obtained new information on biological weapons, in addition to some information on ballistic missiles. He added that the experts team will carefully examine and analyze this information.

Asked whether this information will help lift the international sanctions against Iraq, he said: The new trend which the Iraqi Government is trying to show is a step in the right direction toward cooperation with the Security Council and the UN Special Commission entrusted with destroying Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. This is certainly a step toward lifting the sanctions. However, it is not enough.

Makes Arrival Statements

JN2108190495 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following his arrival in Amman, Rolf Ekeus made statements in which he spoke about the results of his talks in Baghdad that were held at an urgent invitation from the Iraqi Government.

[Begin recording, in English] [Ekeus] Talks in Baghdad were unusual in the sense that the Iraqi authorities handed over a large amount of information which Iraq earlier has been systematically concealing from us. So, it appears to suddenly become a change of heart. We received information on biological issues. We received large amount of information on biological weapons in addition also, some information on ballistic missiles. Also, the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] team accompanying me has received a large amount of documents. The exact value of that information, we have to study and look into very carefully after our experts start to study them. But we can announce that there is new information on such item which has been hidden from the UN before.

[Unidentified correspondent] In light of the new information revealed by Baghdad, do you expect that that could be a step forward toward lifting the sanctions imposed on Iraq?

[Ekeus] It is too early to say. We are not quite sure that this is complete. But it looks that a new attitude, if I may say so, which the Iraqi Government is trying to demonstrate is an attitude in the right direction — in the direction of cooperation with the Security Council and its subsidiary organ, which the commission is, and going away from the type of, you know, threats, confrontation, breaking off, and so and so. So, definitely, it should be a step to make it easy to lift sanctions. But, I do not think it is enough as yet, of course.

[Correspondent] Do you expect to meet with General [Husayn] Kamil?

[Ekeus] I would not comment upon these things at this stage. [end recording]

Meets With Deputy Prime Minister

JN2108180795 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, deputy prime minister, minister of education, and acting foreign minister, has met with Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission on dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, at the latter's request. Al-Rawabidah was briefed by Ekeus on the results of his latest mission in Baghdad. During the meeting, which was attended by a number of Foreign Ministry officials, al-Rawabidah stressed Jordan's eagerness to alleviate the Iraqi people's suffering.

[Begin recording] [al-Rawabidah] In fact, I met with Rolf Ekeus at his request this evening. He briefed me on the large amount of information he obtained from our brothers in Iraq and the commitment spelled out by Mr. Tariq 'Aziz that they will implement UN resolutions 100 percent. He has come to meet with Mr. Husayn Kamil, if the latter wishes to do so. I explained to him that we are very interested in ending the suffering of our brethren, the Iraqi people, so that this good Arab people will resume their position in the Arab arena. We support the implementation of UN resolutions. At the same time, however, we support putting an end to the Iraqi people's suffering so that they will again assume the role they have always played in the Arab arena.

[Unidentified correspondent] Has he briefed you on his position on the information he has obtained?

[Al-Rawabidah] In fact, this information is still subject of consideration, because it is large amount of infor-

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mation. It is currently being examined by the committee's experts. However, he expressed satisfaction with the atmosphere he witnessed in Iraq, with the desire for absolute cooperation with him, and with the fact that no deadline was fixed for completing his mission. [end recording]

Amman Not Involved in Hasan Meeting

JN2208085995 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Aug 95 pp 1, 21

[Report by Caroline Faraj]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, deputy prime minister, education minister, and acting foreign minister, has said that the main purpose of the visit to Jordan by Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN commission charged with destroying Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, is to meet with Husayn Kamil Hasan, former head of the Iraqi Military Industrialization Organization, if Hasan wishes to meet with him.

Al-Rawabidah stressed that Jordan will not get involved in arranging the meeting between Ekeus and Hasan, nor will it prevent such a meeting. He added: We have nothing to do with this. He stressed that Jordan will not be represented in the meeting if it takes place. [passage omitted]

Ekeus Reportedly Meets With Hasan

NC2208095995 Paris AFP in English 0945 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Aug 22 (AFP)—UN disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus met Tuesday [22 August] with Iraqi defector General Husayn Kamil Hasan who masterminded Baghdad's secret weapons programmes, Jordanian officials said.

Ekeus arrived in Amman Monday after a four-day mission in Baghdad. He said Iraq handed over new information on its germ warfare programme but more facts were needed on chemical weapons.

Husayn Kamil, former Iraqi industry minister and a son-in-law of President Saddam Husayn, defected to Jordan on August 8. He later said he would divulge Baghdad's weapons secrets only if he felt it was in the country's interests.

Weekly Discusses Amman's Proposal to Baghdad

JN2208092095 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic 23 Aug 95 p 1

["Exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed diplomatic sources have revealed that Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim conveyed a proposal to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn during a visit to the Iraqi capital one month ago.

The proposal, whose details were leaked following General Husayn Kamil's defection, deals with Jordan's efforts to convince the United States and United Kingdom to lift the siege on Iraq and to bring Iraq back into the international arena.

Al-Qasim asked the Iraqi president to join the peace process and to give the inspection teams the secrets of Iraq's armament program to facilitate Amman's mission. The Iraqi president, however, asked Marwan al-Qasim for time to study the proposal and to think it over, but the recent developments prevented him from sending his reply.

Contacts were held in Moscow and Paris between Iraqi and Israeli officials. Tariq 'Aziz, Husayn Kamil, and the Iraqi ambassadors in both capitals met with Israeli officials there.

Radio Reports on Pelletreau, Bin-Shakir's Meeting

JN1808115395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir this morning received Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, and his accompanying delegation. The two sides dealt with issues related to the Amman economic summit and the development bank for the Middle East and North Africa.

His excellency stressed that Jordan has taken good preparations for holding the conference. He noted that Jordan seeks to make the proposed development bank a means of development and progress in the region, at acceptable and reasonable conditions, rather than a commercial bank to be added to other banks working in this field.

Pelletreau asserted his country's readiness to discuss these issues and coordinate with the Jordanian side in that respect.

The audience was attended by the ministers of finance, foreign affairs, trade and industry, and planning and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Official Cited on Pelletreau Talks With King

NC2208094995 Paris AFP in English 0936 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman, Aug 22 (AFP)—Jordan's King Husayn held talks on Tuesday [22 August] with US Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau, who arrived overnight on a surprise visit —

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his second to Jordan in less than a week, a US official said.

"The talks covered the latest developments in the region and his (Pelletreau's) other consultations over the last few days," the official told AFP. [passage omitted]

The official would not say whether Pelletreau met with UN disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus, currently in Amman for talks with Iraqi defector General Husayn Kamil Hasan, considered the mastermind behind Baghdad's mass-destruction arms programme. Pelletreau is scheduled to fly back home late Tuesday, the official added.

A Western diplomat in Amman had stressed that Pelletreau's second visit to Jordan was linked to "positive developments" vis-a-vis the Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations, which deteriorated in the wake of Iraq's invasion of this Emirate on Aug 2, 1990. [passage omitted]

Governmental Differences Over Iraq Policy Detailed

JN2208061195 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 21 Aug 95 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Popular, parliamentary, and party reactions to Husayn Kamil Hasan's televised statements have, for the first time since the April 1989 uprising, forced the Jordanian ruling circles to check their thrust toward interference in Iraqi internal affairs, determination on replacing relations with Iraq with Gulf ties, particularly with Saudi Arabia, and full compliance with the American dictates which sought to worsen the degree of estrangement between Jordan and Iraq.

Many factors, foremost of which is the economic factor, have helped the popular stand to have an edge on the official position, although only temporarily. The Jordanian economy was paralyzed during the past period. Businessmen, traders, and industrialists raised their voices against the proposed closing of the Iraqi market and the suspension of semi-free oil supplies. The second factor is a political one. Deputies, writers, and party leaders strongly warned against involvement in interfering in Iraq's domestic affairs and turning Jordan into a base or a passageway for hatching conspiracies against Iraq. The third factor is a humanitarian one. Many voices questioned the fate of Saddam Husayn's daughters and condemned preventing them from meeting their family or journalists to make sure that they left Iraq willingly and are not being held hostage.

Last week witnessed many differences between Iraq and Jordan. Moreover, there has been a contradiction in the Jordanian political position, given the difference between his majesty the king's statements to an Israeli paper and the statements of the prime minister at the House of Representatives on Monday. This reflected confusion and apprehension in the political street as well as in the cabinet.

The Council of Ministers, whose chairman was outside the country when Husayn Kamil arrived in Jordan, was surprised by the defection and the ensuing measures of granting asylum and the televised news conference. The cabinet was divided. Most of its members, even the prime minister, felt the grave consequences of severing relations with Iraq to appease the U.S., which offered Jordan nothing tangible despite all its promises.

A number of ministers expressed their desire to withdraw quietly at the first cabinet reshuffle. The majority of the cabinet, however, including the premier and his two deputies, saw continuing relations with Iraq as normal, notwithstanding the U.S. position that does not offer Jordan concrete gains in the same degree as it places burdens on it. A cabinet minority, led by the foreign minister, thought it would be better to comply with the U.S. plan and enhance ties with Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states even if at the expense of relations with Iraq.

This difference was settled two days ago in favor of the cabinet majority that believes that the U.S. does not seek to topple the Iraqi regime but rather to reshape it and prompt it to adopt a democratic approach and engage in negotiations. However, the cabinet minority, which temporarily approved of the opinion of the cabinet majority, still believes that Washington and its Gulf allies will find rest only when the Iraqi regime is ousted within a short period of time.

Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti spelled out this opinion on Tuesday in an interposition during a seminar on administrative development chaired by Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah and attended by 120 secretaries and directors general in the state.

Al-Kabariti said that the Iraqi regime will collapse in a month or two at best and that Jordan should jump from the Iraqi wagon before it crashes. He further noted that Jordan should swiftly sever its ties with the Iraqi regime and restore its relations with the Iraqi people so that the latter would not harbor grudges against us and refrain from cooperating with us when the regime collapses in the near future.

He went on to say: Foreign policy is the task of the head of the state. The Foreign Ministry only executes policy since the cabinet is an executive authority. We are proud of principles, constants, and ethics. However, our policies are shaped in accordance with our pragmatic

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interests irrespective of their moral content. We believe that our top priority at this time is to improve our relations with the Gulf states regardless of what this will take.

Al-Kabariti said that Husayn Kamil has told us about many atrocities committed by the Iraqi regime and that prisons there are usually congested with prisoners, scores of whom are driven to execution yards, not for a specific guilt but only to reduce the large numbers of political prisoners.

Joint Iraqi Economic Projects 'Not Affected'

MM2208115595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Aug 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Official Jordanian Source Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Joint Projects With Iraq Continuing, Not Affected by Husayn Kamil's Defection"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — An authoritative Jordanian source has revealed that several Jordanian-Iraqi projects are being jointly implemented, demonstrating that cooperation is continuing between the two countries despite the defection to Jordan of General Husayn Kamil, son-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The authoritative source at the Jordanian prime minister's office said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that cooperation with Iraq in various spheres, especially economic ones, is continuing in view of the size of the Iraqi market and its ability to accommodate large quantities of Jordanian commodities and products. The source added that recent developments in the wake of the defection to Jordan of the Iraqi president's son-in-law have not affected bilateral relations, and that joint committees between the two countries have not been altered.

The source said that the movement on the border is very normal on both sides. Oil tankers are continuing to transport Iraqi oil to Jordan, because the Jordanian authorities are keen for the special relationship with Iraq to continue.

The authoritative source said that Iraqi experts are working in the oil prospecting sphere in Jordan and in the extraction of natural gas in the al-Rishah fields on the Iraqi border. The source pointed to Iraq's willingness to provide Jordan with all its needs as regards experts and technical cadres in the spheres of oil prospecting and the establishment of refineries and tanks.

On joint projects between the two countries, the source said that the most important ones are the installation of an oil pipeline between Iraq and Jordan to supply Jordan with Iraqi oil, in addition to the establishment of an oil refinery in al-'Aqabah. The source pointed out that these two projects are currently under consideration and their implementation depends on the availability of the necessary financing. They will be presented to the Amman economic summit to secure the necessary financing. They will cost $1.5 billion.

Concluding, the source said: The Jordanian-Iraqi joint committee for trade cooperation meets regularly to discuss trade relations between the two countries. Jordan owes Iraq $1.1 billion in debts, and the Iraqi market accommodates 10 to 25 percent of Jordanian exports.

Deputies Demand Information on Maneuvers With U.S.

JN2208081095 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Aug 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Twenty House of Representatives members have submitted a petition to House Speaker Sa'd Hayil al-Surur demanding an urgent session to discuss the joint U.S.-Jordanian maneuvers which were widely reported recently.

The deputies say: We wish to know the purpose of these maneuvers, the size of the U.S. forces, where they are based, and the connection between the maneuvers and General Husayn Kamil's defection and the U.S.-Kuwaiti maneuvers.

In their petition, the deputies also demanded information on the U.S. presence in the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, and the Arabian Gulf and the connection between the maneuvers and Robert Pelletreau's recent mission.

Dailies Discuss Improved Ties With Gulf States

JN1908162195

[FBIS Editorial Report] Jordanian Arabic dailies AL-RA'Y and AL-ASWAQ published on 19 August deal with the improving relations between Jordan on the one hand, and Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on the other.

In its editorial entitled: "Amman: The Capital of Accord and Reconciliation," AL-RA'Y says that recent statements by the Kuwaiti foreign minister on improving ties with Jordan, which coincide with similar statements by the Saudi foreign minister, close the chapter on the stage of recession in these ties. The paper notes that these statements are welcomed by Jordanian political circles and enjoy popular satisfaction.

AL-RA'Y says: "Those who believe that the improvement of relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia, or Kuwait, comes as a result of expected tension in our relations with Iraq, are mistaken." The paper notes that

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Jordan has always sought good relations with all Arab countries, citing as an example its ties with Iraq during the past era and despite harsh circumstances.

The paper concludes by saying that Amman, which is honored to be the capital of accord and reconciliation, is seeking to forever remain the meeting place for all the sons of the nation. The paper makes it a point that Amman's ties with any Arab capital will not be at the expense of its ties with another capital.

Under the headline: "Expected Arab Developments Within the Framework of the Jordanian Initiative," AL-ASWAQ notes signs of improvement in the relations between Jordan and each of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait after five years of stalemate.

The paper says: "Some foreign media and official quarters are trying to give the impression that the revival and return of these ties to normal comes in light of recent developments represented by the defection of some Iraqi officials to Jordan. However, whoever follows Jordan's diplomatic efforts and clear political positions on the issue of Arab solidarity and cooperation, which continue to be expressed, will be convinced that the great improvement expected in relations with the region's countries, including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, did not come on the spur of the moment or as a reaction to a certain event. Indeed, it represents the brothers' conviction that Jordan, which has always supported its nation and its issues, is the same Jordan which now, as previously, is eager to maintain cooperation and dialogue with everyone and under all circumstances."

The paper says that Jordan's concern for the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the blockade equals its determination to continue efforts to establish a formula for inter-Arab relations based on equitability and noninterference in the internal affairs of others, and to establish the language of understanding and dialogue to resolve problems away from policies of aggression and threats.

AL-ASWAQ concludes by noting that the expected improvement in ties between Jordan and all brothers in the Gulf region is accompanied by Jordan's continuous efforts toward lifting the blockade on Iraq and restoring its important Arab and regional role in the peace era. This is in addition to Jordan's efforts to close the ranks that were divided in the aftermath of the Gulf war. Hence, the paper says, the total picture is clearer than ever before toward a united and coordinated stand that has gained momentum following the foreign minister's visit to Saudi Arabia.

Editorial Hails 'New Phase' in Saudi Relations

JN1808101595 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Aug 95 p 1

[Editorial: "Fruitful Talks and a Better Future"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In statements to reporters following his return to Amman yesterday, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti described as fruitful his talks with his majesty the custodian of the two holy mosques, the Saudi crown prince, and the foreign minister. He noted that these talks were compatible with what we called for and sought. He stressed that the future of Jordanian-Saudi relations will be better and brighter. Commenting on the talks, Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal used the same language in his statements to Jordanian official mass media before seeing-off al-Kabariti yesterday.

In this context, al-Faysal said that a Saudi ambassador will arrive in Amman soon. He also said that he will fulfill al-Kabariti's invitation to him to visit Jordan. He further stated that he sees no obstacle to a Jordanian-Saudi summit meeting in the near future.

Thus, we can say that a new phase in Arab solidarity has come into existence. Definitely, the positive results of this phase will not be restricted to the good relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Rather they will encompass the ambitions and aspirations of the Arab individual for pan-Arab relations as well as pan-Arab-international relations.

Here we would like to highlight the size and weight of the joint role of the Jordanian and Saudi leaderships in terms of reviving the nation's plan for cooperation, integration, and solidarity and confronting the challenges facing the nation in the stage of establishing Arab-Israeli peace and building the peace of peoples.

It is important to note here al-Kabariti's statement upon arrival in Amman yesterday on the keenness of the Jordanian and Saudi sides on Iraq's unity and sovereignty on its territory and the need for it to occupy its natural position on the Arab and international arenas.

In sum, Jordanian diplomacy, led by His Majesty King Husayn, has taken a significant stride on a long path toward the realization of the Arab individual's dream of a bright Arab future — which is the best means to realize the ambitions and hopes of this individual, as the Saudi foreign minister said.

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Magazine Reports on Hizballah Congress, Leadership

NC1808180595 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 14 Aug 95 pp 15-20

[Report by Zayn Hammud: "Hizballah From Inside: Secrets and Mysteries"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Discussions at Hizballah's recent congress were very calm. It was said that the party could have invited other parties to attend the opening session of its congress, as parties around the world usually do, but the circumstances of Hizballah's war against Israel dictated that the place and date of the congress be shrouded in secrecy. The elections and the discussions were held calmly, and participants looked like members of a single faction. This underscored the militant spirit that dominates the party, and it was also due to the existence of the "shadow leadership," whose instructions and guidance no one thinks of opposing.

The congress elected seven Lebanese members to Hizballah's Decision Shura [shura al-qarar]. Add to them two Iranian members and you will have the party's central leadership. The seven are: Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah, Deputy Secretary General Na'im Qasim, Husayn Khalil, Muhammad Ra'd, Muhammad Yazbik, 'Abdallah Qasir (all former members of the Decision Shura), and Hashim Safiy-al-Din, who was elected for the first time.

The seven were elected without opposition. It was said after the congress that if the "shadow leadership" had nominated seven members other than the ones who were actually elected, there would have been no problem, and the alternative seven would have been elected. It should be noted, however, that the seven elected members enjoy reasonable popularity, respect, and appreciation among the party's grassroots.

Deputy Muhammad Ra'd was appointed chief of the Political Bureau, the members of which were reduced from 27 to 12, including eight of Hizballah's representatives in the Chamber of Deputies. The rest of the members will be appointed later. It should be noted here that the Political Bureau has changed its name to the Political Council.

The appointment of Ra'd as a replacement for Husayn Khalil was not at the expense of the latter, who was appointed to a new post created by the congress; namely, assistant secretary general. [passage omitted]

At its recent congress, Hizballah's unity, especially the unity of its leadership, appeared very solid, and many people realized that there is no potential split now or in the foreseeable future.

As for the [Islamic] Resistance, which for security and other considerations related to the nature of its work constitutes a separate body from the party, it has not yet reached the level of a separate entity with its own independent views, objectives, and ambitions. Party members are rotated to the Resistance, which has no single or permanent leader. This removes the risk of its turning in the future into something like the "Lebanese Forces," for example, which rebelled against the Phalangist Party.

According to Timor Goksel, spokesman for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, the Resistance has 400 professional fighters in the south. If needed, these are supported by the so-called "stationing elements" ['anasir al-murabatah], who are no less experienced, trained, or combat-ready than the 400 professional fighters. All of them have taken advanced military and security courses. There are thousands of "stationing elements"; they exist wherever Hizballah exists—in Beirut's Southern Suburb, in al-Biqa', and especially in the south.

But the decisive factor preventing the Resistance from turning into a political party project independent of Hizballah is the presence of the "shadow leadership," which supervises everything related to the party, from the top of the hierarchy to the base.

What is this "shadow leadership?"

No one has a clear and precise answer to this question. But all knowledgeable people point out that this is the "security group" in the party. Moreover, these people mention 'Imad Mughaniyah as the top man in the party, and they also note his assistants and in-laws [not further specified] Mustafa Badr-al-Din (known as Ilyas), Ibrahim 'Aqil (known as Tahsin), and others.

Since this group, through Mustafa Badr-al-Din, took charge of what was known in the party as countersecurity — now known as the judiciary — the party has succeeded in halting the security infiltrations by the Mosad, which took place a long time ago.

Mustafa Badr al-Din—or Ilyas—was imprisoned in Kuwait for his role in the attempt to assassinate the Kuwaiti amir. He escaped from prison during Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. His biography shows that he helped form and train Kuwaiti resistance groups against the Iraqi forces before his escape, through the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait, to Iran and from there to Lebanon.

But the "shadow leadership" does not derive its power and effectiveness from only its specialization in security affairs. It constitutes the main equation on which the party is based, which is originally a military-security equation. Its top man, 'Imad Mughaniyah, is the official in overall charge of relations with Iran, particularly

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through the War Ministry and the Iranian leaders in general.

This group, which enjoyed a close relationship with former Iranian interior minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, a prominent founder of Hizballah, managed to keep its relationship with Tehran unaffected after Mohtashemi found himself outside the government. It has constant contacts with Iranian Ambassador in Damascus Mohammad Hasan Akhtari. The Iranian Embassy in Beirut has little influence on the group, and consequently, on the party.

Some people say that this group controls decisions on the party's finances, which is a powerful thing in light of reports that Iran's aid to the party since 1990 has amounted to some $3.5 million monthly. Before that, the figure was about $5 million. If true, this huge amount is virtually the budget of one of the poor states in the Third World. [passage omitted]

Buwayz Blames Lack of Peace for Violence in Region

NC2208063295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Aug 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Buwayz] The only solution to the problem of violence in the region is a comprehensive, just, and real peace. Israel's continuing postponement of this subject and its continuing provocation of the feelings of the Arab masses in the various spheres cannot but lead to more violence. While regretting the use of violence as a means to solve problems, we must realize that the prospect of peace—which is obstructed by Israel at every stage—is the only way to build a stable and quiet situation in this region.

[Correspondent] Israel is also planning to enlarge the security zone [in south Lebanon] as the Israeli election date approaches. What is your view?

[Buwayz] I believe Israel's actions in the south in recent years have proved that despite all its technological and military superiority, Israel has failed to secure its borders through these means. So far the south has proved to be very costly to Israel. This cost has surpassed Israel's losses in all its wars against the Arabs. Therefore, if Israel wants to satisfy some internal tactical needs, the cost of any operation must be judged in light of past experience.

Begin was the main victim of the [1982] invasion of Lebanon. Begin and Sharon were the main victims of this invasion. Its repercussions for Israel's internal front remain today. Hence, if it is certain that Lebanon will pay the price for such maneuvers, it is inevitable that the Israeli Government will also pay a price.

[Correspondent] Have you received any information in this regard from Washington?

[Buwayz] Absolutely not. There is no information about the possibility of Israel carrying out any operation. But there are analyses and speculation that sometimes point to this possibility because of the Israeli Government's internal, tactical needs.

[Correspondent] The U.S. charge d'affaires visited you. He said the discussion focused on the peace process. Is there a new U.S. stance?

[Buwayz] This was a routine visit like all visits made by the U.S. charge d'affaires. The assessment of things in the region does not point to new developments.

[Correspondent] Do you believe the Syrian-Israeli track is frozen?

[Buwayz] I believe the freeze is a result of Israel's unjustified insistence on installing early-warning stations in the Golan. Everybody knows that the space satellites, the data it gets from the United States, and its own electronic equipment allow Israel to monitor its borders sufficiently.

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Energy Director Views Agreement With Argentina

JN2108171295 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Syria signed a contract with Argentina a few days ago at the end of a visit to Buenos Aires by Syrian experts to purchase a nuclear reactor for peaceful purposes. Within this context, our correspondent in Damascus, Thana' al-Imam, asked Ibrahim 'Uthman, director of the Syrian nuclear energy department, on the aspects of cooperation between the two countries in the field of energy. 'Uthman said:

[Begin recording] ['Uthman] There are many aspects of cooperation. The first aspect is the production of radioactive isotopes because these isotopes are extensively used in the field of medicine, industry, and agriculture. Syria now imports these isotopes. This agreement will facilitate the transfer of this technology and Syria will start producing these isotopes.

The agreement covered cooperation in the field of research in preserving foodstuffs, and the industrial application of radioactive isotopes. It also provides for creating a facility for treating medium and weak radioactive waste. Naturally, there will be technical training and technical advice will be provided on the needed technical applications.

It was also agreed that the Syrian side will actively contribute toward completing preliminary studies and implementation plans in order to gain the necessary expertise and be able to continue its work later on.

[Al-Imam] Mr. 'Uthman, how do you react to the violent Israeli criticism of Syria following the announcement of its intention to buy a nuclear reactor?

['Uthman] In fact Israel should be the last country to discuss this issue or make objections because Israel has not signed the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and the entire international community is aware of this and is always demanding that it joins the NPT. Moreover, Israel has not signed the comprehensive guarantees agreement and has not opened its nuclear facilities to the International Atomic Enemy Agency inspection. Israel has not made any international commitment to revealing its nuclear capabilities. We are aware of these capabilities, which are acknowledged by all international scientific circles. Israel is not only capable of producing nuclear weapons but has already manufactured these weapons. Hence, Israel contravene all international rules and laws and has no right to speak about these matters. This is a kind of interference. Israel forces itself on this topic in complete disregard to what it should do in this regard. [end recording]

Mr. 'Uthman says the legitimacy of Syria buying a nuclear reactor for peaceful purposes is based on Article 4 of the NPT. The article says that the signatories of the treaty have the right to exchange scientific and technical information to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and to participate with other countries or international organizations in developing the means of employing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, particularly in the territories of states that do not possess nuclear weapons and which are party to the treaty.

Palestine Broadcast Views Settlement Activities

JN1808190695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Aug 95

["Palestine" program: "Talk of the Return"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The heated settlement campaigns, provocations, and aggressions launched by the Israeli settlers against the Arab citizens and their property in the occupied West Bank, under the protection of the Israeli occupation army, not only show contempt for the peace process, but are also a blatant defiance of the will of the international community and security Council resolutions, particularly Resolutions 446, 465, and 476. These resolutions stipulate that Israel's measures to change the features of the occupied Arab territories by setting up settlements, are illegal, illegitimate, and flagrantly contravene the Fourth Geneva Convention on the treatment of inhabitants and occupied land in war time.

Therefore, the Israeli settlement measures and practices in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank cannot possibly serve the interest of the peace march, and cannot contribute to the promotion and advancement of this march. On the contrary, settlement activities have constituted and will continue to constitute a major obstacle to the peace process. How can this process make any progress and how can it achieve its cherished goals at a time when Rabin's government insists on implementing the settlement policy? Rabin announced that the settlements will remain as they are in the West Bank and the Jordan Valley, and will not be removed or dismantled.

How can the peace process make any progress at a time when the Israeli settlers are spreading corruption in the occupied Arab territories. Every day they set up more settlement centers in the West Bank under the protection of the Israeli army. Everyday they commit more aggressions and terrorist acts against Arab citizens and their property.

The Israeli settlement activities and the occupation of the Arab lands, coupled with all the suppressive and

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terrorist measures, procedures, and practices against Arab citizens in the occupied territories, conflict with the pillars and bases of a just and comprehensive peace, which provide for a full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories on all fronts.

There will be no peace as long as Israel continues to occupy an inch of the Arab territories. There will be no security and stability in the region, so long as Israel continues to set up settlements in the occupied Arab territories, to confiscate lands from their Arab owners, and to pursue its suppressive and terrorist practices against the Arab citizens.

In light of all this, what is required first and foremost is a suspension of the settlement activities carried out by the Israeli settlers under the protection of the Israeli occupation army, as well as the settlement activities carried out by the Israeli Government in the occupied Arab territories. Otherwise, the peace process will be stalemated, and will remain a prisoner to the Israeli intransigent and maneuvering policy, which, has been obstructing and undermining the peace process, preventing it from making progress or achieving success.

Israeli Rejection 'Obstacle' of Peace Requirements

JN1908155595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 19 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] In contrast with Syria and its positive stands, Israel has created numerous obstacles and dealt negatively with the peace process and the efforts made to boost it. Israel seeks to prevent any genuine progress that would lead the peace process to its desired end and aspired objective. It has refused to deal seriously with the bases of the peace process and its essence, which is the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. Moreover, Israel has been involved in many maneuvers to undermine the bases of the peace process and circumvent its principles, which constituted the basis of the Madrid conference. While Syria has adhered to the objective of a just, comprehensive peace in accordance with the will of the international legitimacy and the UN Security Council resolutions, Israel has raised many doubts about the usefulness of the peace process and repeatedly tried to wreck it, seeking partial solutions which would enable it to achieve its objectives without full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Yet, full withdrawal will remain the essence of real peace. Israel continued to raise its own visions of peace, security arrangements, relations, and all other objective requirements of peace, completely disregarding the core of peace, which is impossible to achieve without full withdrawal, and ignoring the concepts of justice and comprehensiveness in any settlement and the principles of balance [tawazun], equitability [takafu'], and evenness [ta'adul] in security arrangements.

Through its contacts, meetings, and talks, Syria expressed its adherence to the bases of peace and the will of international legitimacy and its readiness to implement international resolutions to achieve a just, comprehensive peace acceptable to everyone and responding to the aspirations of the peoples of the world. Meanwhile, Israel provided all evidence to prove its evasion of peace and its requirements and its search for incomplete settlements that would allow it to circumvent the objective requirements of peace. With this in mind, observers no longer exhaust themselves in looking for the causes of obstruction and standstill in the peace process. Israel's rejection of the bases and requirements of peace is the real obstacle to achieving any progress. The Yitzhaq Rabin government has made no secret of the fact that it has not yet made a decision in favor of peace, nor has it hesitated to say that it is in the process of absorbing the partial agreements it signed. Such agreements prove everyday to be ineffective and unable to meet the minimum requirements of peace. Therefore, under the pretext of absorbing these agreements, Israel is stalling the Syrian track, in which Syria declares constant commitment to all its rights and territory in implementation of the bases and requirements of peace and in response to the will of the international legitimacy and its quest for regional security and stability.

The long peacemaking process has proved that circumventing the requirements of peace cannot contribute to making peace and that incomplete settlements cannot last or put an end to tension or achieve regional security and stability. While peace is eventually a common interest, the top priority is the return of territory and rights to their owners, so that discussions could commence on the building of the objective requirements of peace in response to international legitimacy and the will of the international community, which hopes for regional security and stability.

Radio on Israeli Reaction to Reported POW Killings

JN2108175995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] News media have recently revealed an appalling crime, citing confessions by Israeli army officers. That crime constituted a landmark in the history of crime, for history books have never spoken of mass killings of so many POW's. Moreover, the POW's

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were ordered by their killers to dig their own graves before they were killed. All this happened to Egyptian and Palestinian POW's during the 1956 and 1967 aggressions. These appalling facts, however, were met by Israeli officials with indifference that calls for deep analysis. Instead of denouncing this appalling human crime and taking legal action against its perpetrators, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin responded by saying that the Israeli army is renowned for its capabilities, lavishly praising this army's memorable deeds. Does not such a response to questions about such a big crime make us ask: How can those officials contribute to the making of a just peace based on respect for every party's rights to its territory, security, and sovereignty? How can they appeal to the entire world to help them find a soldier who has been missing for years in southern Lebanon, for example, or anywhere else? Yet, they charge those who defend their territory and dignity of being involved in terrorism and threatening international law, oblivious of the fact that they have dealt with and are dealing with the killing of hundreds of defenseless POW's with this logic that contravenes all human standards and values. Moreover, they charge Syria and Lebanon of obstructing the peace process, at a time when Syria proved in word and deed and in war and peace that peace is its strategic option. During the October 1973 war of liberation, President Hafiz al-Asad uttered his memorable words: We are not fond of killing and destruction. Rather we are defending ourselves against killing and destruction. On every occasion and at every meeting, President al-Asad stressed that we are seeking an honorable peace that ensures everybody's rights and dignity.

The international legitimacy and the UN Security Council resolutions have constituted the basis of the U.S. initiative and have been adopted by the Madrid conference as the terms of reference of the entire peace process. While Syria continued to be committed to those resolutions and the pillars of a genuine peace, Israel proves everyday its defiance of all international resolutions and the unanimous international desire to establish a peace that guarantees everyone's rights and security. This is unless Israel considers the daily arbitrary killings in the villages and towns of southern Lebanon a service to peace and one way of showing respect for UN Security Council Resolution 425. Regarding the occupied Syrian Golan, Israel has been relentlessly pursuing maneuvers and tricks, arguing whether withdrawal should be from parts or from the entire occupied Syrian territory, and making other similar provocations. The Israeli leaders, the U.S. Administration, and all those concerned about the peace process are well aware that those statements and policies do not serve peace nor do they lead to it. Since peace is supposed to be between two parties, both parties' rights must be respected, and their security and dignity must be ensured equally in accordance with the international resolutions and laws and in light of respect for these laws. However, this is not what Israel has been doing in the occupied Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese territories.

Boasting about the capabilities of an army that kills prisoners and orders them to dig their own graves does not indicate good intentions about the search for the genuine peace demanded by the entire world to put an end to the state of war, tension, and threats to regional and world security.

Paper: Israel 'To Benefit' From Paris Bombings

JN2208083395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 Aug 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the real motives for the wave of bombings seen in France last month, which targeted civilians, saying: Everybody is aware of these motives, because these bombings came in the aftermath of de Gaulist Jacques Chirac's election win, which resulted in a host of positions on the Middle East peace process and Arab rights, not to mention the support he has voiced for Syria and Lebanon regarding the need for Israel to withdraw its troops from the occupied Golan, southern Lebanon, and al-Biqa' al-Gharbi in implementation of the relevant UN resolutions. Hence, it is only Israel which stands to benefit from these acts.

AL-THAWRAH believes that Israel has never wanted France or any other EU member, for that matter, to take a neutral, impartial, and fair position toward the region's problems, issues, and crises, or to support fairness, justice, and the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy. Israel's efforts are exposed. They are aimed at driving wedges, fueling anti-Arab sentiments, and blackmailing the French people and other European nations. Nonetheless, these attempts and the cowardly and condemnable assassination of innocent people in Paris and elsewhere will fail to undermine Arab-French and Arab-European ties.

Press Berates Palestinian Leadership's 'Sellout'

JN1908081895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Aug 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Aggression Against Jerusalem," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Israel has begun to arrange the final phase of the Oslo agreement regarding Jerusalem, Hebron, the settlements, and the West Bank hills.

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TISHRIN asserts that Israel has focused its operations on Jerusalem. In addition to putting pressure on the Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem in order to close them and move them out of the city, Israel stormed five offices, stole their contents, looted their documents and property, and interrogated their employees. This was a prelude to closing these institutions.

TISHRIN adds that this chain of Israeli practices confirms that the Oslo agreement only came to threaten and sell out the Palestinian Arab rights, give Israel gains at the expense of Palestinian territory, and entrench occupation on the ground.

The paper asserts that the chain of sellout and concessions by the Palestinian side has not stopped since the influential leadership inside the PLO accepted the limited self-rule plan, agreed to bargaining over the Palestinian people's rights, threw overboard the objectives of the Palestinian people's national and pan-Arab struggle, and dwarfed the Palestine question into humiliating agreements and negotiations which gave the occupation all that it wants and all that it could not obtain throughout 50 years.

TISHRIN says: Jerusalem is an Arab-Islamic issue which should not be sold out or bargained over. Israel has achieved its objective in terms of the Palestinian Authority's [PA] capitulation to its conditions. This, however, does not give Israel the right to desecrate the Arab-Islamic institutions and holy places in this city or to pursue its encroachments in broad daylight amid the silence and consent of the advocates and symbols of the self-rule plan regarding Jerusalem. As was the case throughout history, Jerusalem will continue to be an Arab-Islamic city which rejects the invaders and resists looting and destruction.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: While Jerusalem is calling on the conscientious people for help, it is at the same time asserting that the policy of sellout and capitulation cannot last and that the PA's allegations cannot fool anyone. This is so because the chain of concessions, which began with the Oslo agreement, was condemned by the entire Palestinian people. This chain does not at all express these people's determination and their pan-Arab and national aspirations to liberate their land and fully end the occupation of Jerusalem and all other Palestinian cities and villages.

In a comment, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH discusses the Israeli practices which impede, and are hostile to, the peace process as well as the Israeli role in foiling any opportunity to save this process.

The paper asserts that to end the stalemate of the peace process, and as a prelude to pushing it toward its sought objective—a just and comprehensive peace—particularly on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, the U.S. cosponsor—as a full partner in this process—must stop Israel's intransigence and commit it to the bases of this peace and to responding to its requirements, particularly full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, led by the Golan and southern Lebanon and the return to the 4 June 1967 line because peace will first be based on full withdrawal.

In another comment on Israel's deception of the world public opinion, AL-THAWRAH asserts that through watching the Rabin Government's policy and measures against Palestinians and other Arab parties it has been affirmed that Israel did not bring the region closer to peace but pushed it toward tension and growing hostility.

After reviewing the aggressive Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories and southern Lebanon, AL-THAWRAH says: During years of peace talks, the Rabin government itself presented a real definition of Israel's aggressive identity and its direct, practical expansionist policy against the Arab nation.

The paper adds: Israel has behaved, and still behaves, contrary to the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace. Occupation is still continuing and the savage practices against Arabs are increasing. Israel's concept of peace is to subjugate and control the Arabs, obliterate their identity and culture, and impose new plans which will enhance its economic, cultural, and military hegemony.

Syrian-Lebanese Joint Economic Committee Opens

JN2108211195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Syrian-Lebanese Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation held a meeting this morning under Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and Yasin Jabir, Lebanese minister of economy and trade. The meeting was attended by Nasri Khuri, secretary general of the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council. Also attending the meeting were Dr. Ratib al-Shallah, chairman of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, and members of the Syrian and Lebanese delegations.

At the beginning of the meeting, Dr. al-'Imadi stressed that the meetings of this committee are the best proof that the march of cooperation and brotherhood between the two countries has achieved and is achieving successive successes in the various fields, including the economic and trade field. He said: Through this committee,

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we work to draft, implement, and follow up a systematic action program aimed at achieving great strides toward economic integration between Syria and Lebanon in implementation of the directives of Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi to cement and bolster the relations of brotherhood and cooperation in the interest of our people. He commended the role played by the technical committees and experts in the successes that have been scored. He stressed that what has been achieved proves President Hafiz al-Asad's assertion that we are one people in two countries. He reviewed the most important steps that have been taken to facilitate travel and communications between the two countries and the measures that have been adopted with respect to easing regulations, fees, and other matters.

Concluding his speech, the minister stressed the importance of economic freedom between the two countries in accordance with the existing regulations and the need to export Syrian-Lebanese products to the world and to take all measures to facilitate the freedom of trade between the two countries.

Afterward, Jabir addressed the meeting. He praised the existing relations of brotherhood and cooperation between Syria and Lebanon. He stressed that this meeting is one of several meetings aimed at promoting economic cooperation between the two countries and opening new spheres of cooperation. He said that the expansion of cooperation is inevitable because of the historical relations between Syria and Lebanon. He said: In Lebanon, we have firm confidence in the historical, vital relations between Syria and Lebanon. We aspire to achieve greater achievements in the various fields of cooperation.

Afterward, the conferees discussed topics listed on the agenda of the committee concerning ways of bolstering economic cooperation and opening new spheres for it.

Al-Shar' Meets With Arab-American Delegation

JN1808053195 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received a delegation representing the Union of Arab-American Institutions, headed by Dr. Rafael al-Mubayyid. The delegation included heads of national unions in Latin American countries.

The foreign minister reviewed the constants of Syria's foreign policy outlined by President Hafiz al-Asad. He also spoke about developments in the peace process since the convocation of the Madrid Conference, which was launched with the aim of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on international legitimacy and related UN Security Council resolutions. However, he added, Israel did not take advantage of this opportunity. Indeed, it continued to place obstacles in the path of the peace process. The foreign minister stressed that Syria wants a real and comprehensive peace, which guarantees Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and secures the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. Moreover, the foreign minister focused on the important role played by Arab-American institutions in reinforcing ties between their countries and the motherland.

Dr. Rafael al-Mubayyid thanked the minister for his review and praised the great and wise Syrian policy under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. He said that the union closely sensed the importance of Syria's role in preserving the heritage and traditions of our nation and in establishing links between Latin America and the homeland. He added that through its foreign policy, Syria proved its awareness of the expatriates' interests and issues and its concern for the Arab nation's interests. Moreover, heads of national unions in Latin America expressed their pride in Syria's wise policy under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, and Syria's honorable and steadfast position on the peace process and its basic role in the Arab arena and achieving Arab solidarity.

Furthermore, the foreign minister listened to inquiries and responded to questions from members of the delegation, wishing them a pleasant stay in their motherland.

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Afghanistan

Rabbani Sends Message of Gratitude to Clinton

LD2008174795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Addressed to U.S. President Clinton, Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, has sent a message of gratitude to Washington in response to Clinton's message of congratulations on the occasion of Independence Day in Afghanistan on 19 August:

Your Excellency Bill Clinton, President of the United States,

With great pleasure I received your message of congratulations on the occasion of 19 August, which was addressed to me and the government and the people of Afghanistan. Hereby, I express gratitude on behalf of the people and the government of Afghanistan and myself for your message on the occasion of 19 August to you and through you to the people and government of the United States. I am fully confident that the UN efforts will lead to peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region by taking into account the objective realities of our society and by helping to stop foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Taking this opportunity, I wish you health and more successes for the people of the United States.

Iranian Minister Arrives in Kabul for Official Talks

IRNA Details Agenda

LD2008144495 Tehran IRNA in English 1408 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul Aug 20 IRNA — An Iranian delegation, led by deputy foreign minister for Asia-Pacific, 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi arrived in Kabul on Sunday [20 August] and was welcomed by acting foreign minister, Najibollah Lafra'i and some other Afghan officials.

The Iranian delegation is expected to hold talks with President Borhanoddin Rabbani and leader of Jam'iyat-e-Eslami-ye [Islamic Society] party, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud during its two-day stay in Kabul.

Issues pertaining to mutual relations, peace process in Afghanistan and other regional problems are on the agenda of talks between the Iranian delegation and Afghan leaders.

Relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Afghanistan has improved and the two countries are to set up Tehran-Kabul joint economic commission.

Borujerdi on Joint Economic Commission

LD2008171495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, this morning received for a meeting 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister of Iran, in the presidential palace. The Presidential Press office reported to BAKHTAR that during the meeting Mr. Borujerdi spoke about the Afghan-Iran Joint Economic Commission that will hold a session next month in Iran. The deputy foreign minister of Iran also gave information about the cooperation of his country with the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Then, speaking about the improvement of the situation in the country in the interest of peace and security, President Borhanoddin Rabbani expressed the hope that the present relations between Iran and Afghanistan will further expand and consolidate in the interest of the people of the two countries.

Discusses Islam's 'Enemies' With Rabbani

LD2008210895 Tehran IRNA in English 2034 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Aug. 20, IRNA — President Borhanoddin Rabbani of Afghanistan said in a meeting here today with Iran's deputy foreign minister for Asia-Pacific affairs, 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, that the enemies of Islam do not wish to see the progress of Islamic states and were engineering plots such as those in Afghanistan.

Borujerdi conveyed to Rabbani the greetings of Iran's President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and the two agreed that agreements previously entered into between the two neighbouring countries would shortly be carried out.

Borujerdi expressed hope that peace and stability would soon return to Afghanistan.

The Iranian envoy arrived here Sunday [20 August] noon for a two-day official visit.

On Ensuring 'Mutual Relations'

LD2008181695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Deputy Prime Minister Seyyed 'Ali Mohamad Javid this afternoon met with 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, Iran's deputy minister of foreign affairs, and Iran's Ambassador to Kabul Gholam Reza Haddadi in the premier's office. During the meeting, Borujerdi spoke about the interest of his country in the issues relating to the restoration of peace and security

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in Afghanistan, and put emphasis on the Afghan-Iran joint economic, technical, and trade commission, which will be holding a meeting in Iran in the near future. Borujerdi also unambiguously expressed interest in the beginning of direct Kabul-Tehran or Kabul-Mashhad flights, which are very necessary for ensuring mutual relations between the two countries. The deputy foreign minister of Iran reassured the deputy prime minister of Afghanistan about preliminary work on the beginning of Iran's Red Crescent's activities in Kabul.

In response, the deputy prime minister expressed gratitude for the readiness of Iran to cooperate in the abovementioned matters. On the meeting of the joint economic, technical, and trade commission in Iran, the deputy prime minister said: We are ready to implement very soon the plan of the joint commission and the opening of Iran's Red Crescent offices and Kabul-Tehran air link.

Discusses Ties With Minister

LD2008191295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs of Afghanistan, this morning met with 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, deputy minister of foreign affairs of Iran, and his accompanying delegation in his office. During the meeting Borujerdi said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is seriously working on taking practical steps in connection with mutual cooperation with Afghanistan. He expressed the hope that the joint commission on mutual cooperation will contribute to the realization of the two countries wishes. He also asserted the readiness of his country to cooperate in connection with the Kabul-Tehran and Kabul-Mashhad air link, the opening of Iran's Red Crescent office in Kabul, the opening of bank offices in Kabul and Herat, the providing of some academic and educational books, the campaign against malaria, and the training of Afghan cadres in various fields. He promised that Iran will in the near future receive an Afghan delegation in connection with joint research on the campaign against drugs and [words indistinct] of police. Borujerdi welcomed the hosting of the forthcoming Economic Cooperation Organization conference in Kabul by the Afghan side.

In response Dr. Lafra'i explained in detail the stance of the Afghan side on the abovementioned matters and added: The Tehran talks are being assessed and the joint commission on mutual cooperation was set up for this purpose. He expressed the hope that the visit of Iran's deputy foreign minister will speed up the work of the joint commission on mutual cooperation. He also spoke about political aspects of [words indistinct] international and Afghan problems. Iran's Ambassador to Kabul Gholam Reza Haddadi and the head of the second political department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from the Afghan side, attended the talks.

According to another report, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Borujerdi arrived in Kabul today heading a high ranking Iranian delegation. At Kabul International Airport he and the accompanying delegation were received by Dr. Lafra'i, Deputy Minister of Planning Mohammad Daud Naseri, Kabul Governor Seyyed Amanollah Sadat, [words indistinct] and head of protocol, and some officials of the Foreign Ministry.

Denies Outside Solutions to Problem

LD2108185895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, deputy minister of foreign affairs of Iran, told a news conference at Kabul airport this afternoon that any formula from abroad for a solution to the Afghan problems will not produce results. Answering a question by a BAKHTAR correspondent on the solution of the current problems in Afghanistan, he said: In my opinion, any solution should be found by the Afghans inside Afghanistan because past experience has shown that any formula drafted outside the country has failed. As far as Iran is concerned, it will do anything it can provided it is asked by the Afghan officials.

[Words indistinct] on the aim and results of his talks with the Afghan authorities, he said: My visit to Kabul has been a follow-up to talks between the presidents of the two countries during the Economic Cooperation Organization conference in Islamabad, the Bandar-e Abbas talks, and Mr. Lafra'i's visit to Tehran. During my talks with Afghan authorities, we discussed the date for holding the first session of the joint commission on mutual cooperation in Tehran, intensification of the campaign against drugs, reopening Iran's Red Crescent center in Kabul, assistance with the University of Kabul, granting long and short term scholarships to Afghan cadre, and the joint campaign against diseases in Afghanistan.

Views End of 'Hostility' With Official

LD2108183995 Tehran IRNA in English 1823 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Aug. 21, IRNA — Iranian deputy foreign minister for Asia-Pacific affairs, 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi here on Monday [21 August] held talks with Ayatollah Fazel, member of the supervisory council of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye [Islamic Unity Party] on the latest developments in Afghanistan.

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Borujerdi who arrived in Kabul on Sunday in line with Iran's mediation efforts to put an end to the internal hostility in Afghanistan said the historical message of the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i rekindled the light of hope in the hearts of the Muslim people of Afghanistan so that termination of the conflict in the country will lead to happiness and prosperity of Afghan nation.

Borujerdi hoped that Hizb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye would work sincerely with the envoy of the leader of the Islamic revolution to Afghanistan to bring together different factions in that country.

Ayatollah Fazel expressed pleasure with arrival of Iranian peace mission to Afghanistan and said, "we always welcomed the message of the revered leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and hope that the message will end the plight of the Muslims especially that of the Afghans."

Borujerdi also discussed the situation with Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Akbari, spokesman and the head of the political committee of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye.

Views Khamene'i 'Message' on Conflict

LD2108090295 Tehran IRNA in English 0827 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Aug 21, IRNA — Commander-in-Chief of Afghanistan Armed Forces Ahmad Shah Mas'ud said the July message of the leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i which called for an end to civil war in that country has left its positive impacts among the people.

Ahmad Shah Mas'ud made the remark in his Sunday [20 August] meeting with the visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi.

He expressed hope the civil war in Afghanistan would end shortly and the country would start its post-war reconstruction.

Borujerdi said Ayatollah Khamene'i's message would serve as a turning point in putting an end to the clashes in Afghanistan.

The deputy foreign minister lauded the cooperation of ranking Afghan Government officials with representative of the leader of Islamic revolution Hojjat ol-Eslam Ebrahimi, who visited Afghanistan in early July.

Borujerdi arrived here Sunday on a 2-day official visit. He has so far held talks with President Borhanoddin Rabbani, Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Javid and head of the Foreign Ministry Najibollah Lafra'i.

The leader's message which had exorted belligerent Afghan factions to eschew from every act of hostility against each other received extensive support of the Afghan people.

Islamic Party Backs Iranian Leader's Peace Message

LD2008102795 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Aug 20, IRNA — The Akbari faction of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye (Islamic Unity Party) of Afghanistan has voiced readiness to follow the message of the leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i calling on Afghan people to put an end to the current civil war and fratricide.

The decision was announced in a meeting between the leader's representative in Afghanistan affairs Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Ebrahimi and members of the supreme supervision council of the faction here on Saturday [19 August].

In the meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam Ebrahimi said that Iran is trying to provide an atmosphere of fraternity between Shiite and Sunni Muslims in Afghanistan.

He also expressed hope that the difficulties facing Afghanistan and its people would be removed as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, chairman of the Supreme Council of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye, Alemi Balkhi, said that after the delivery of the leader's message, now Afghans feel religiously and morally obliged to establish peace in the country.

Ayatollah Fadhel, another memmber of the supreme council, said that Ayatollah Khamene'i's initiative has relieved pains suffered by Afghan people, adding "we consider as our religious duty to obey what Ayatollah Khamene'i has ordered."

He also commented that reunification of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami- ye would guarantee the party's revival.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ebrahimi leading a delegation arrived in Kabul on Wednesday.

Bangladesh

Official Views Bosnia, Nuclear Tests, Other Issues

BK2008134495 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1200 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been an encouraging response to the Bangladesh prime minister's call for an

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emergency summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] on Bosnia. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman while briefing reporters in Dhaka today. He said that a few countries — including Mali, Malaysia, and Morocco — as well as the PLO chief have conveyed their willingness to attend the proposed summit.

Replying to a question, he said Morocco, the current OIC chairman, is eager to hold the summit. If requested, Bangladesh will also gladly be willing to make arrangements for the summit. Rabat has called the Bangladesh initiative timely and appropriate. Malaysia will soon host a conference of foreign ministers, defense ministers, and Army chiefs of the OIC member countries to take stock of the latest developments in Bosnia. Oman also proposed an emergency meeting of OIC foreign ministers to review the Bosnian situation.

The spokesman underlined the need to strengthen the UN peacekeeping troops in Gorazde. Bangladesh renewed its offer to send another battalion of troops to Gorazde, if necessary, to ensure the safety and security of the enclave. The spokesman said that a minimum of six battalions of UN peacekeepers should be deployed there. He said Gorazde must be protected and the United Nations should take a meaningful initiative to mobilize the necessary funds for its operations in Bosnia. The Bosnian authorities have no desire to surrender Gorazde and the country highly appreciates Bangladesh's initiative to resolve the Bosnian crisis. The entire Islamic world is concerned about the developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Referring to the recent visit of Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan to Bangladesh, the spokesman described it as extremely productive. The visit will contribute to strengthening the existing excellent bilateral relations between Bangladesh and China. Both sides reviewed various regional and international issues of common interest. The two sides apprised each other of their respective stances on various issues and noted their identity of views on almost all matters. The Chinese side demonstrated a better understanding of Bangladesh's views on the sharing of Ganges water with India.

About nuclear tests, the spokesman said that Dhaka has always been a forceful advocate of a total nuclear test ban.

The overall position of trade between Bangladesh and India is expected to be reviewed at a meeting between the two countries in Dhaka on 28 August.

The Foreign Office spokesman said that Robin Raphel, the U.S. assistant secretary of state, will arrive in Dhaka on 4 September as part of the regular consultations between Dhaka and Washington. The visit is seen as very significant. Besides her official talks, she is expected to meet political leaders from both the government and the opposition.

'Fruitful' PRC Talks End With 'Firm Pledge'

BK1808012695 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The two-day talks between Bangladesh and China have ended with a firm pledge to further strengthen their bilateral cooperation in political, economic, and other spheres. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan told newsmen in Dhaka today that the talks have been very fruitful. Tang led his country's delegation at the talks, while Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan led the Bangladesh side.

Tang said that China and Bangladesh are good partners in the economic and political spheres. The Chinese vice foreign minister said that the two countries hold identical views on various matters, including regional and international issues. He said that the topic of greater cooperation in economic and commercial activities was discussed at the talks and it was hoped that it will lead to further expansion of bilateral cooperation in various other fields. Tang invited the Bangladesh foreign secretary to attend the next round of talks in Beijing next year. A spokesman of the Bangladeshi delegation said that new ideas and a model for economic cooperation in pursuance of the economic reforms in both countries were discussed at the talks. He said that the two sides agreed on the need to hold regular meetings on various issues of common interests.

Golam Hafiz, minister for law, justice and parliamentary affairs, has said that China has been playing an important role in the economic development of the country. He said this when Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan called on him in Dhaka today. The law minister said that the China-Bangladesh Friendship Society has long been playing a significant role in maintaining friendship between the people of the two countries. The law minister praised the government and the people of China for constructing three friendship bridges in Bangladesh. China will soon construct the fourth bridge over the Karatoya River. Later, Golam Hafiz, who is also the chairman of the China-Bangladesh Friendship Society, accorded a reception for the Chinese vice foreign minister at a local hotel. Addressing on the occasion, Tang thanked the friendly people of Bangladesh for the warm hospitality accorded to him and his delegation members. The function was attended by, among others, a number of cabinet ministers, senior officials, and officials of the Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh.

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Commentary Views Talks With PRC

BK1808154495 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] China and Bangladesh have enduring ties between them, and their bilateral relations are not only deep-rooted but are also based on understanding, confidence, and trust. Both countries are also keen on seeking out and identifying new areas of cooperation against the context of changing global, political, and economic situation. This year both the friendly neighbors are celebrating the 20 years of establishment of formal diplomatic relations between them. Looking back at the score card of friendship and cooperation, both Beijing and Dhaka can take pride and satisfaction in the fact that relations had grown rapidly and have passed the test of time.

Visiting Chinese vice foreign minister, Tang Jiaxuan, touched on the basic code of the Sino-Bangla friendship when he underscored that both countries cherish common values and share identical aspirations. Mr. Tang, who is on a five-nation South Asian tour, began his diplomatic journey by first stopping in Dhaka. Analysts have laid special significance on this fact, particularly as it comes on the eve of the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Mr. Tang, who is on a three-day visit to Bangladesh, called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office on Wednesday [16 August]. The Chinese vice foreign minister said that the presence of Begum Zia at the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Women in Beijing will lend special significance to the global meeting. He emphasized that the Bangladesh leader had made relentless efforts in expanding female education and empowerment and development of women. These achievements would be among the highlights of the Beijing conference and will be considered as model for others to follow.

The Chinese vice foreign minister had also formal talks with Bangladesh officials, including Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan. The meeting between the two delegations reviewed the state of bilateral relations, explored new areas of cooperation, and (?led) to an exchange of views on other subjects and issues of mutual interest. Such a [word indistinct] meeting is taking place after three years, and both sides have stressed that an exercise of this sort is immensely useful. On the bilateral plane, joint industrial ventures and investment potentials for economic cooperation have figured prominently in the talks which concluded today.

China has expressed satisfaction over Bangladesh's role in international affairs, particularly in removing tension in the global trouble spots. An official spokesman after the talks said the Bosnian crisis came up for discussion, and Beijing was informed of the initiative undertaken by Bangladesh and on a personal level by Prime Minister Begum Zia in resolving the crisis and bringing back peace in the Balkan region. Begum Zia, in sum, lauded the pace of economic development in China and said Bangladesh welcomes Chinese investment and technology in a specialized economic zone. Chinese cooperation in the construction of several vital bridges and the exploration of Boro Pukhuria coal. [sentence as heard]

Bangladesh looks forward to working in close collaboration with China for global and regional peace and understanding. At the bilateral level, Dhaka hopes that ties with Beijing will grow from strength to strength. This is the message from Dhaka that Mr. Tang will be carrying back home.

Zia Criticizes Opposition Efforts To Seize Power

BK1808071395 Hong Kong AFP in English 0642 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, Aug 18 (AFP) — Prime Minister Khaleda Zia called efforts to overthrow her a "waste of breath" and urged her challengers to agree to elections run on her own terms, according to an interview published Friday [18 August].

"The burden of coming to terms rests on the opposition. I have already made my gestures," the Bangladeshi leader told the weekly "Holiday" newspaper three days after opposition parties gave her until August 31 to resign and call fresh elections.

Zia renewed her offer to resign 30 days ahead of general elections her government has scheduled for early 1996.

That offer has already been rejected by the main opposition party, the Awami League, by the Jatiya Party led by deposed president Hussain Muhammad Ershad and by the fundamentalist Jamaat- e-Islami party.

Earlier this week, the three parties threatened that if Zia did not step down by their deadline and call elections under a neutral caretaker government, they would encourage massive street protests.

They announced plans for public campaigns including a 32-hour nationwide general strike starting September 2.

It "would be a sheer waste of breath and muscles on the part of the opposition to disrupt civic life and economic activities," Zia told the magazine.

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Meanwhile, sources close to the American mission here confirmed earlier reports that US Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel is to visit Dhaka next month as a special envoy of President Bill Clinton to ensure "productive dialogue" to end the nearly 18-month political standoff.

Zia said her opponents could regain 142 parliamentary seats they vacated to protest her regime, if they accepted her offer to quit just a month before an election.

The opposition seats in question were vacated when MPs from several parties started boycotting the 330-member parliament in March after disputed results in by-elections in a constituency of western Magura district.

The opposition eventually resigned from the house last December, but the speaker rejected their decision on a technicality, only to declare the seats vacant later on because their holders had been absent without leave.

Zia said the whole exercise "would seem unorthodox, but would nevertheless be a reworking of the constitutional process, albeit backwards."

She said if that happened then the two sides could "improve on proposals by either side or invent ... an interim government with the benefit of fresh ideas."

However, she added the "constitution cannot be bent, nor amended in its principal features, nor short-changed for post-facto ratification."

Government leaders reportedly want to complete their five-year term, which would make them the first to do so since Bangladesh declared independence from Pakistan [words indistinct] to power."

Political analysts warn that calls from other left-wing parties, notably the Ganatantri Party and Jatiya Smajtantrik Dal, for street protests from workers and farmers could lead to violent confrontations.

India

U.S. Said To Sell F-16's, Reimburse Pakistan

BK2108131095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States is now planning to sell the F-16 aircraft meant for Pakistan to a third country. According to the current information available to New Delhi, Washington will reimburse the sale proceeds to Pakistan. The sale has been withheld since 1990 under the Pressler Amendment.

The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, informed this to the Lok Sabha today while responding to a query on newspaper report that Taiwan is ready to buy the F-16's.

PRC Officials in New Delhi for Official Talks

'Joint Working Group' Extends Talks

BK2008072195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and China have extended their talks on the boundary question by a day. The Joint Working Group which met yesterday and today in New Delhi will continue discussions tomorrow also on ways to settle the vexed issue and on additional confidence building measures.

During the two days of talks, the working group is reported to have examined mutual pullout of troops where they are at close proximity along the Line of Actual Control. The Indian delegation at the talks is led by the foreign secretary, Mr. Salman Haider, and the Chinese side by Vice Foreign Minister Mr. Tang Jiaxuan.

Official Comments on Accord Reached

BK2008152295 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and China have agreed to pull back their troops from four posts, two on each side, from the Sumdorong Chu Valley in the eastern sector. This was disclosed by the foreign secretary, Mr. Salman Haider, in New Delhi today at the end of the eighth round of talks between the two countries. He said the process will be completed by the end of this year and it will be without prejudice to the Line of Actual Control.

Replying to a question, he said India took up with China the supply of missiles to Pakistan, including M-11. The visiting side reiterated its country's stand that the supply is in small quantities and will not disturb the regional balance.

Several other bilateral and regional issues, including the enhancing of economic cooperation and the setting up of joint ventures, were also considered. The next meeting will be held in Beijing.

Radio Welcomes Outcome of Talks

BK2108044795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Commentary by A.J. Philip]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The decision of the India-China Joint Working Group, JWG, to disengage troops

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from four positions along the border where they are in close proximity is a measure of the success of its three-day deliberations. The eighth round of talks which ended in New Delhi yesterday were essentially aimed at bridging the gap in the positions of the two countries on maintaining peace and tranquillity on the border. As the progress achieved by the JWG so far has shown, the two countries want normalization of relations in a step-by-step manner. They have made it clear that the disengagement of troops which will be completed by the end of this year would not affect the status of the Line of Actual Control that separates the two countries.

Under the 1993 India-China border agreement, the entire 4,000-km stretch of border is disputed, which had been the Chinese stand all along. While conceding this point, India, which until then held that the border dispute was confined to a very small stretch of 320 km in the northern sector, had extracted the promise that China would recognize the accession of Sikkim to India. This is one reason why India is keen to open a trade route at Nathula or (Jay Lapla) in Sikkim, which would amount to China's tacit if not explicit approval of Sikkim's accession.

It appears India may have to wait till the next round of talks in Beijing to resolve such vexed issues. It is gratifying, however, that the New Delhi talks have dealt on a number of nonmilitary issues which have a profound bearing on the bilateral relations. The two sides have identified several confidence-building measures, including joint economic ventures. That the scope for such relations is unlimited goes without saying.

As was only to be expected, the Indian side used the opportunity to raise the subject of China's supply of M-11 missiles to Pakistan. Since Pakistan has been on an arms acquisition spree and it has been far from friendly to India, sale of such arms naturally causes concern. China's clarification that the transfer of arms was in small quantity is unlikely to allay India's fears given the unfriendly acts of Pakistan, like stoking the flames of terrorism in the Kashmir valley. However, it is gratifying that China has supported India's unequivocal stand on terrorism.

Article Considers PRC Military, Economic 'Threat'

BK2008161295 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 19 Aug 95 p 6

[Article by Bhashyam Kasturi: "The looming Chinese threat"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Chinese state poses long-term military and economic threat to India's security. This threat takes many forms and may manifest itself in the next two decades or more. While both sides are striving to maintain peace along the border, and have signed an agreement for the maintenance of tranquillity along the border, there are indications that unless real progress is made on the territorial dispute there is the likelihood of conflict erupting in some form in the future.

The conflict between the two Asian giants may be a short border war and confined to disputed areas, or it may take the form of maritime rivalry in the Indian Ocean. It is also likely that economic rivalry will grow and may get translate into a national security struggle.

In order to analyse this threat it is necessary to understand how the Chinese view India in their 'world order'. This will necessitate analysis of how things have shaped in the past and based on this it will be possible to posit how things will shape in the future. China sees itself (and has seen itself in the past) as a superpower. By virtue of its possession of nuclear weapons, it held on to the belief that it was a world power. Additionally, its communist legacy made it strive to replace the USSR in the bid to take over the leadership of world communism. The ideological split in the sixties between the two communist giants was partly a result of this.

China today has the potential of achieving that status as it has reached a stage in its economic reform wherein it has achieved self- reliance in several fields and is presently concentrating on building military power. That it could afford top priority to economic reform over military modernisation was due to its nuclear deterrent, which it flaunts occasionally, with nuclear weapon tests. This combination of circumstances has brought China to a position where it can dictate terms on a global level.

The problem that China is likely to face in the post Deng era is increasing disparity between the economically wealthier south and agricultural north. Signs are that this is already being felt and has led to disturbances inside China and civil unrest is taking up the energies of the state, to a considerable extent.

China feels that India is a long-term threat as the latter is taking the path of economic reform that will give it economic wealth and power. This will in turn allow India to modernise its armed forces in due course of time.The problem that India faces is that it cannot afford to neglect defence modernisation for the sake of economic reform.

This means that India's strategy will have to cater to either weaponisation of its nuclear capability, to act as a deterrent against China, or it must undertake rapid and selective modernisation of its conventional forces. The latter will call for inputs in electronic warfare and force

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multipliers that will enhance combat potential of forces .

India's long-term plans must oversee a likely conflict with China on the border and provide for adequate mountain divisions to fight a holding operation, equipped with better equipment, including lighter artillery guns and heli-lift capability. This should be aimed at by 2010.

All Mountain Divisions need to reconfigured for offensive-defensive operations in order to shift the focus of attack. This will mean fighting the enemy on the mountains and giving ground only in order to stretch the Chinese lines of communication and supply. In 1962, the Chinese reached their peak (?of) operations on the mountains, but began to run out of steam when they came onto the plains.

Air strikes on Chinese bases in Tibet will be necessary as will be heli-gunship attacks on troop concentrations in the northeast. The need for such air strike policies arises from the Chinese build- up of forces to building (?of) logistics in Tibet over the past five years.

China hopes to improve runway capacity at Lhasa and Gongkor airports by the end of the century. Extension of roads and rail- lines and communication bases upto the border is being carried out.

The actual pace of these operations has been slow as the terrain is inhospitable. But it is likely that such operations will be completed by 2010. Much of the Chinese inroads into Tibet are likely to be commercial. But the use of this infrastructure for military purposes can never be ruled out.

The only thing that is in India's favour is that it will be able to find out troop concentrations well in advance, as the Chinese will require at least a year's time to build-up a sizable force for operations against India. But this should leave no room for complacency, as past experience has shown that the Chinese believe in the efficacy of offensive operations, pursued with vigour and accompanied by deception and surprise.

This was witnessed during the Sumrodung Chu affair in 1987 [border violation by PRC troops]. Also the People's Liberation Army [PLA] has sought to increase its rapid reaction capability, by raising more units for air mobility and assault operations.

The PLA in 1989 carried out rapid deployment exercises in the Chengdu military region where the 149 airborne division was airlifted from Sichuan to Lhasa. The exercise demonstrated that they could airlift considerable force along with its support units for immediate operations.

China will not challenge India militarily — conventionally at least, as the latter is well prepared to fight a limited border war, something the Chinese envisage as occurring in the next century. And it is not presently cost-effective for China to maintain a large army in Tibet.

But in course of time it will be easier for them to keep troops there as infrastructure facilities will allow marshalling of forces for long-duration conflict. Therefore, one has to be prepared at all times to meet the Chinese challenge.

'Authorities' Renew Appeal to 'Militant Abductors'

BK2108144895 Hong Kong AFP in English 1431 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Srinagar, India, Aug 21 (AFP) — Indian authorities Monday [21 August] renewed an appeal to the Mulsim militant abductors of four Westerners in Kashmir but denied reports of a face-to-face meeting with them on Sunday.

"We are in contact with them on phone," a spokesman said in this state summer capital. "The diplomatic channel is being used for the safe release of the hostages."

"Repeated appeals by the government to the abductors to see reason has had no desired effect," he said. "The government has renewed it appeal to the captors to release the hostages on humanitarian grounds."

The spokesman denied reports of a face-to-face meeting between government officials and members of the Al-Faran group but said "indirect contact was on."

"We mostly talk to the captors on phone. But there are other means also which we do not want to divulge," he said.

A senior official had said on condition of anonymity that government negotiators had held the first direct meeting with Al- Faran members on Sunday. He said (?the meeting) was held "somewhere in Kashmir "

Meanwhile, baton-wielding policemen in Srinagar broke up a demonstration by Kashmiri students denouncing Indian authorities for the kidnappings, which they said were staged by Indian troops.

The 100-odd activists were led by Javed Mir, a leader of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front rebel group, witnesses said. "Indian agents free the hostages," they cried.

Three students were injured in the police action, hospital sources said. [passage omitted]

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Abductors Say Hostages 'Safe,' Promise 'Proof'

BK2108161195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the four abducted foreign tourists are reported to be safe and the militants who kidnapped them have promised to provide their latest photos and audio recordings as a proof to the government authorities. The official spokesman said in Srinagar this afternoon that this assurance was given by the abductors during a telephonic contact with the government authorities yesterday. The spokesman said the security forces have no plan to launch any military operation to rescue the hostages. The government feels that the best option available is diplomatic channels.

The embassies of different countries are trying to pressurize Pakistan to help an early release of innocent tourists from the custody of militants. Representatives of the American, German, and British Embassies who are in Srinagar are in full agreement with the government approach in dealing with the situation, the spokesman added. The government has urged media persons to doubly check the veracity of facts before filing the reports as wrong news could endanger the safety of the foreign tourists.

Meanwhile, in Jammu and Kashmir, a local commander of the militant group Al-Jehad surrendered with arms and ammunition to the security forces yesterday in a village in Doda District. According to an official press release, the militant has been identified as Parvez Akhtar, who was associated with a number of militant-related activities in and around Bhadarwah.

Increasing Criminalization of Politics Viewed

95AS0463C Calcutta BARTAMAN in Bengali 19 Jul 95 p 4

[Article by Sukumar Datta " The Infiltration of Crime is Destroying Politics]

[FBIS Translated Text] A new distressing factor that has cropped up in the sphere of the Indian politics is the criminalization of politics. However, it is not absolutely new. It existed before also, but sparsely here and there. Its recent widespread entry has made national politics — already sick with malpractice, corruption, nepotism and so forth — completely bloodless. In the earlier days there was no place for the criminals in the society, and they were considered social garbage. But the situation has changed. Today their frightful power and authority exist in all strata of the society through the political establishments and influence. No one — rich, poor, educated or uneducated — was spared from the hands of this perversion. If one can secure once a position in politics, all other avenues are found opened for him. Therefore, nothing now looks surprising if these persons, who are known as anti-social elements, become the supreme authority in the society.

The citizens of our country enjoy several fundamental rights enacted in the constitution and for that they do not have to take similar or complementary responsibilities. Although the responsibilities are not numerated, they are mandatory for any citizen and this realization is either rare or, could be said, practically non-existent. Therefore, many a time these fundamental rights are being distorted into a license for committing crime and the gradually changing politics supply fuel for vicious consequences. A section of our politicians are destined to attain their goals, depending on the money and muscle power. Consequently, they gain enormous power and wealth, but at the same time the anti-social and crime-prone muscle-men—who are the instruments for their elevation to power—also build their authority. And the situation slowly moves in a such way that it leaves no alternative left for the politicians but to extend favorable response to this decaying process. Far from opposing them, the politicians themselves gradually become partners to this perversion, because without the support of the anti-social and crime-proned muscle-men they could not even think of winning the elections for the state legislatures or the Lok Sabha [lower house of the Indian parliament].

Therefore, remaining under the shelter and closeness of these politicians, the criminals also enjoy political and social prestige and because of this political patronization they are being excused from deserved punishments for their misdeeds. This nexus between the politicians and criminals has become so rampant and regular that today it does not at all surprise anyone. The regret expressed by Prime Minister Narasimha Rao on the 'criminalization of politics and politicization of criminals' has thrown some light on the dimension of this frightful perversion. His own Congress Party is also guilty in this regard. Not only the Congress Party, but other political parties cannot claim that they are free from this malady.

Some recent incidents gives a general idea about the extensiveness of this malady. For instance, the other day in Delhi attempts were made to burn the mutilated body of a young lady in a fire after murdering her. Moreover, the criminals involved in this horrid crime became so desperate that without having any embarrassment or hesitation they tried to use for this purpose the oven of a government hotel situated in the heart of the city. Because of the promptness and honesty of an ordinary policeman the culprits were captured.

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Otherwise, perhaps no trace of it would have been found. The surprising thing is that the person who was indicted as the primary culprit of this most contemptible murder is an important person of the Delhi Youth Congress.

His hands were so long that despite the country-wide censure this alleged culprit was granted bail at the Madras court due to the pressure from a higher circle. However, the high court rejected the bail and finding no other way, the Youth Congress leader — the alleged boss of this malicious deed — surrendered himself to the Karnataka police. Meanwhile, he was ousted from the Congress Party. But just after surrendering in a statement this person made an attempt to involve the Youth Congress president, which the latter fully denied.

Whatever may be, such mud slinging will surely smudge the image of the Congress Party. The Congress would not face this distress if it had not treated with great affection these dubious and anti-social elements. Why only the Congress Party? A month and half ago a parliament member of the Janata Dal was charged with another similar incident. A dead body of a young woman was found in his Delhi residence. However, as that parliament member was not present in Delhi at that time, he could not be directly indicted with murder. But all the whisperings are raising their finger of suspicion toward him. In another recent incident, a legislator of the Janata Dal in Bihar was killed by a bomb at his Patna residence. It is said that this was done by a hired gangster with a motive of taking a political revenge. In another similar incident gangsters known as supporters of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazaghaman invaded an attorney's house in Madras and physically assaulted him. The fault of the attorney was that he showed the audacity to file a case in the court bringing corruption charges against Chief Minister Jayalalita. In view of the impending strike in the court in protest against such assault, the Madras High Court ordered an inquiry into the incident by the Central Bureau of Investigation. Besides all this, the fairy tale of Mulayam Singh is an unprecedented episode.

It is being said that the Election Commission has a complete account of the growing criminal indulgence in politics. The commission has the detailed list of different crimes being committed by different people who are taking part in the politics of election. But could these charges create any obstacle to the alleged persons from taking part in the election contests? At least the reality does not indicate such a thing. Several of these persons are successfully contesting the elections and some of them are even holding the position of ministers. These and many other similar incidents taking part in the different parts of the country indicate how extensively the criminal indulgence has deeply entered into politics. The riots and disturbances that followed the Calcutta municipal elections only add nourishment to the same fact.

In such a situation will it be possible to resolve the problem by merely hurling accusations at each other? In order to arrest this trend our political leaders should take such a decision which would make any person, directly or indirectly involved with such criminal charges, totally unfit from taking part in any election contest. Not only should the election laws or conducts be amended, but overall changes should be brought about in all its related laws. If our political leaders are successful in creating a national consensus in this regard, then only they will able to free our politics from the whirlpool of criminal indulgences. Otherwise, like our prime minister's statement 'criminalization of politics and politicization of criminals' will slowly make hollow the politics of the country.

Iran

Diplomat Cited on U.S. Relations, 'Approach'

LD2108085395 Tehran IRNA in English 0744 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 21, IRNA — Iran's Ambassador to Germany Hoseyn Musavian says the two Iranian groups who either favor ties with Washington or oppose it are mistaken.

The English-language daily IRAN NEWS quoted Musavian saying, "At home, extremist stances are adopted towards relations with the U.S.: one group acts as though the U.S. and its administration are illegitimate and believes that under no circumstances can relations be established with such a country."

Another group opted for the immediate establishment of ties with the U.S. and was convinced that this move would instantly solve all domestic and foreign problems facing Iran, he added.

"I believe that both groups are mistaken, relations with the U.S. depend on Washington's approach toward Iran," the paper quoted Musavian.

Referring to the record of the U.S. hostility and animosity toward Iran, the ambassador stressed that so long as such attitude prevailed, establishment of ties with the U.S. would not be in Iran's interests.

"We have never seen any good will from the U.S. America has shown only hostility and enmity toward Iran before and after the Islamic revolution. But if the U.S. changes its approach and decides to make up for its past animosity and ill will and proves it in practice,

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then Tehran will be able to reconsider establishment of ties with Washington," the ambassador said.

He argued that given the extensive freedom in Iran, political differences naturally existed on most issues, including ties with the U.S., "but the final decision," he emphasized, "has been and will be taken by the eminent leadership whom we all follow and will continue to do so."

As for the long-term impact of the Washington-Tehran crisis on the European attitude toward Iran, Musavian said that Europe was after its own interests and would not easily sever ties with an independent Iran possessed of principled standpoint.

Preserving Europe's current stands vis-a-vis Iran depended mainly on the perpetuation of these principled standpoints, noted the ambassador.

"For instance," he added, "the U.S. accuses Iran of possession of atomic weapons but Europe has conducted studies and inspections and has realized the falsehood of such accusation."

"We have set no restriction for inspection of Iran's nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which has repeatedly affirmed Iran's peaceful use of these facilities," the ambassador was quoted saying.

He added "An independent Iran in the region is surely in the interest of Europe which naturally does not favor a U.S.-dependent Iran."

Commenting on Iran's policy of cordiality towards Europe to offset U.S. efforts of isolating the Islamic Republic, the ambassador said, "Iran cannot be isolated even if our European ties are severed. Iran is a powerful country in the region and has the final say in the world of Islam at present, and is a cultural and political superpower, especially after the collapse of communism," he told the paper.

"Such a country cannot be ostracized," thus Europe has realized that ties with Iran are to its own advantage, stressed the ambassador adding that the Islamic Republic also attaches great importance to its ties with Europe which is Iran's prime industrial and economic partner.

"Iran is also an important trade partner for Europe," he said adding as a result, Iran believed in having cordial and friendly relations with Europe.

Referring to the future of Irano-German relations, the ambassador said that the two enjoyed traditional historical relations and added that after the revolution bilateral ties between the two countries became stronger.

Musavian noted that the above-mentioned parameters, as well as the recent global developments which have turned Iran and Germany into major powers in the Middle East and Europe, were all ample proof that these friendly relations should be further promoted and the ties between Iran and Europe strengthened.

Tehran-Bonn relations would serve as a conduit through which relations between the European Union and Iran can be promoted with an ultimate goal of large-scale regional and international cooperation.

Intense crises in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Iraq (related to the Kurds there), Bosnia and the like were important subjects of this cooperation, Musavian noted.

He said he expected the friendly Iran-Germany ties to enhance Iran-Europe relations which should in turn promote ties between the Middle East region, the European Union, and the rest of the world, wrote the paper.

Daily Views U.S. 'Arrogance and Interference'

LD2108111295 Tehran IRNA in English
1055 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 21, IRNA — The United States should learn from Vietnam and from the former shah: In the long-run, arrogance and interference don't pay, a morning daily stressed Monday [21 August].

The English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES then referred to Iran's deals signed with Russia on completing a nuclear power plant, with France on exploration and extraction of oil on two offshore oil fields and with South Africa on storage and re-exportation of oil.

The daily further stated that the United States has announced its concern over the signed agreements and has called for cancellation of the accords but Iran's partners did not pay attention to U.S. requests.

"The pattern here is that one country tries to survive, to do what is in its best interest, while another country doesn't like it and tells everyone to stop," it said.

It suggested that the United States should be reminded that the Cold War has ended: There are no more superpowers: one country, no matter how powerful, cannot dictate to another.

"The U.S. has experienced this ever since it imposed sanctions on Iran last June and no one listened," it noted.

Countries are like individuals, the paper said adding, "they need to survive: They do what is in their best interest, and if they don't, they have lost their instinct to survive."

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It concluded by saying that, countries should be left alone to be independent.

U.S. Said 'Fanning' Tension Between Jordan, Iraq

LD2108124995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0955 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, greetings dear listeners. Let me draw your attention to today's political commentaries. Our first commentary is entitled: The Aims of the United States in Breaking off Jordan's Economic Ties with Iraq:

Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary and Mark Parris, Bill Clinton's special assistant for national security affairs, arrived in Saudi Arabia yesterday after visiting Jordan and Egypt. They will also be visiting Kuwait. During their visit to Jordan, these two U.S. officials tried to convince Amman not to purchase Iraqi oil and to break off economic ties with Iraq. Toward the implementation of this policy, these two officials will, during their visits to Riyadh and Kuwait, try to persuade those countries to meet Jordan's oil needs and resume their ties with Amman.

One of the aims of the United States in fanning the tension between Jordan and Iraq is to end the hostile climate between Amman and Arab Persian Gulf littoral countries that came into being in the wake of Jordan's support for Iraq during the oil war. In pursuing this aim, the White House is trying to turn Jordan, which has signed a compromise deal with the Zionist regime, into a bridge for expanding relations between the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf and Israel; especially so since these countries have reduced their indirect sanctions on Israel under U.S. pressure.

In addition to this, the United States, in supporting the breaking off of Jordan's economic ties with Iraq, is trying to tighten the noose of economic sanctions on Baghdad. Since the commencement of the economic sanctions against Iraq, the United Nations has granted an exemption to Jordan in relation to breaking its economic ties with Baghdad in order to prevent the deterioration of the poor economy in that country. Thus, the efforts being made by the United States to break off Jordan's economic ties with Iraq are in contravention of UN resolutions.

In the opinion of political analysts, the United States' efforts to break off the economic ties between Jordan and Iraq reveal Washington's real aims behind its propaganda commotion about military movements in Iraq and the possibility that that country may attack Jordan following the defection of Iraqi generals. The United States' failure to present convincing evidence testifying to prohibited military movements in Iraq and the contradictory statements made by U.S. and Kuwaiti officials in this regard speak of the fact that, by creating a propaganda uproar about a Iraqi attack on Jordan, the United States is trying to achieve particular aims, and Washington's recent efforts to break off Amman's economic ties with Baghdad seek to achieve these aims.

UN Withdrawal From Bosnian 'Safe Town' Criticized

LD1908202395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman has described the unexpected decision by UN officials to withdraw the peace-keeping forces from Gorazde in Bosnia as an indirect laying of the groundwork for attacks by the Serbs on this so-called safe town. He said: The heart-rending scenes of events which took place in the safe-declared towns of Srebrenica and Zepa must not be repeated in Gorazde, and this important task requires the cooperation of all those countries that are trying to solve the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The spokesman told an IRNA correspondent: Unfortunately, the decision to withdraw the peacekeeping forces from Gorazde has come at the same time as the announcement of a peace plan; one of the articles of which is about separating that town from the territory under the control of Bosnian Muslims and handing it over to the Serbs.

He said: The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its grave anxiety about the decision by UN officials, and considers it to be in contravention of that organization's previous resolutions in recognizing the existence of the country of Bosnia and in declaring Gorazde to be a safe area. He added: This measure may once again lead to a human tragedy and to widespread ethnic genocide, similar to that which occurred in the towns of Srebrenica and Zepa.

Commentary Calls Jerusalem Blast 'Natural Response'

NC2208085395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 22 Aug 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to news agencies the toll from the explosion in Jerusalem—when a bomb

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went off on a bus—has reached six dead and around 100 wounded. Yesterday the Zionist regime's radio interrupted its regular programming and announced that a very powerful bomb had exploded at 0800 local time in a populous district.

The Zionist regime's officials have attributed the planting of the bomb to Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement of Palestine, on the basis of a telephone call by an unidentified individual who ostensibly called AFP, saying he was a member of the 'Izz al-Din Qassam group, the military wing of Hamas. So far UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali and the Governments of the United States, Britain, France, and Russia have condemned the blast in Tel Aviv [placename as heard].

Explosions of this kind are part of the struggle against the repressive policy of the Zionist regime in the occupied territories. At the beginning of the current month of Mordad [23 July-22 August] a Palestinian youth carried out a suicide operation by exploding a bomb on a bus in the north of Tel Aviv, killing five people and wounding 33 others.

Political observers, who do not rule out the involvement of rival hardline Zionist groups in such explosions, view the martyrdom-seeking actions by the Palestinian combatants as a natural response to the proliferating wave of arrests and suppression in the usurped territories.

There is no doubt that the planting of bombs is unprincipled and abhorrent. But experience has shown that violence spawns violence and this is the course the Palestinians have apparently been forced to choose in light of the daily mounting violence and suppression in occupied Jerusalem.

Construction on Bushehr Nuclear Plant Said To Begin

LD2008085695 Tehran IRNA in English
0550 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 20, IRNA — Construction work for the reactor of Bushehr nuclear power plant, in southern Iran, will be started within three months from now, Russian Deputy Nuclear Energy Minister Yevgeniy Reshenikov said.

Reshenikov who arrived in Tehran Thursday [17 August] heading a delegation from Russia's Atomic Energy Ministry to discuss construction of the plant, added that preliminary technical studies will soon be completed by Russian experts.

Pointing to the U.S. pressure on Russia to cancel its contract with Iran, the Russian official stressed that yielding to the U.S. pressure is out of question.

He said that a Russian company will supply the fuel needed for the power plant.

The Russian nuclear energy delegation will stay in Iran for one week.

Ambassador to Russia Lauds Bilateral Cooperation

LD2008101395 Tehran IRNA in English
0601 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 20 (IRNA) — As far as Irano-Russian relations are concerned, "the sky is the limit," said Iran's ambassador to Moscow.

In an interview with the morning English-language daily IRAN NEWS, the Iranian envoy to Moscow, Mehdi Safari, underlined the importance of Tehran-Moscow bilateral cooperation.

Iran-Russia relations are on the right path, but the two countries should explore fresh avenues for solidifying the areas of reciprocal cooperation, Safari stated.

He believed that there are more than enough grounds for joining hands and closer ties between Iran and Russia.

Iran has strategic and sensitive interests in areas such as Central Asia, the Caucasus and Afghanistan for which Irano-Russian cooperation is a must, the diplomat remarked.

He added that one of the most important areas of cooperation is the Caspian Sea where Iran and Russia share identical views on the world's biggest lake.

The ambassador said that Russia and Iran want the legal aspect of the Caspian Sea to be determined first before exploitation of its natural resources begin.

"The most important aspect of Irano-Russian cooperation is that both countries want the regional states to tackle their problems themselves, and use their natural resources for the benefit of their own people and the people of the region as a whole, without foreign influence," Safari said.

Russia, with its advanced technology and a population of 160 million, provides the best opportunity for transfer of technology to Iran, he said.

"Russia can be one of the best markets for our non-oil goods such as garments, tiles and household equipment," the ambassador said.

Right now, he added, Russia has a plan in hand for the construction of 10 million apartment buildings and desperately needs construction materials including tiles, he stated.

Iranian trucks, minibuses, and road-building machinery can find a suitable market in Russia, he said.

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"In return," Safari added, "Russia can participate in Iran's gas and oil industry projects."

Both countries have signed important oil and gas exploration agreements for the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea last month, the ambassador said.

Negotiations are continuing with Russia for building of oil platforms in the Persian Gulf and for the purchase of oil tankers, he added.

In mid-July a Russian delegation, headed by the fuel and energy ministry director A. Famin, arrived here to meet the officials of the oil ministry to discuss cooperation in exploration, production and refining projects of petroleum affiliated industries, he further added.

Russian officials expressed their readiness for cooperation with Iran in Central Asia and for the establishment of joint companies for international projects, Safari continued.

"One of the most important projects which is in the pipeline is the joint exploitation of copper mines in northern Khorasan Province," he said, noting that these newly discovered copper mines have more reserves than those of Sar Cheshmeh.

"Culturally we have many things in common with Russia," he added.

"Right now 4,000 Russians are in Iran working on different projects and their number will increase in the years to come" he said.

Concerning an Iran-Moscow trade deal, Safari said "the annual Irano-Russian trade volume is dlrs. 800 million, but these figures will drastically increase soon as a result of the implementation of the projects on which negotiations are continuing in Tehran and Moscow.

Oil Accord Signed With Pretoria Despite U.S.

LD2108190595 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 21, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's visit to Pretoria last week turned Iran-South Africa relations into a new period despite the U.S. efforts to persuade South African officials to follow the U.S.-sponsored trade embargo on Iran.

According to Velayati Iran will deliver 300,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd) to South Africa and an agreement was signed on 15 million barrels of oil storage at the South African port facilities of Saldanha Bay.

Tehran-Pretoria Joint Economic Commission will explore the grounds for cooperation in economic, oil, industrial and mineral areas.

Iran also voiced readinees to help South Africa gain an access to the markets of the Central Asian States.

The agreement secured Iranian oil markets in 11-member states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Southern America [as received].

South African Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Pik Botha said that the United States has gone too far in showing sensitivity to Tehran-Pretoria trade relations.

He said none of the european states has followed the U.S. lead and that the U.S. trade embargo on Iran is not in the interest of South Africa.

South African deputy minister of mineral and energy affairs said that the trade exchange between Iran and South Africa was only 10 million dollars last year, whereas the trade between Iran and Germany exceeded two billion dollars and that trade between Iran-France and Iran-Italy were each over one billion dollars.

Botha said the U.S. has magnified the trade agreement between Iran and South Africa and his country was a routine customer of Iranian oil.

Iran has supplied 70 to 80 percent of South African need for oil which amounted to over 240,000 barrels per day (bpd).

Meanwhile, the spokesman of the U.S. State Department said that the U.S. was disappointed to hear the deal was approved between Iran and South Africa during a visit by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

In his meeting with members of South African Parliament, Velayati rejected the allegations of the U.S. to justify its trade embargo on Iran as baseless.

Velayati said the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as an impartial body has confirmed Iran's peaceful nuclear efforts and that Iran is fully committed to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

He said Iran has been a signatory to the treaty since 1970 and gave positive vote to extend the treaty earlier this year.

Velayati said the U.S. allegation on Iranian support for international terrorism has emanated from the U.S. unilateral support for the Zionist regime and its hostility to the Muslims as well as Iranian moral support for Hezbollah and Lebanese nation in their struggle to terminate the Zionist occupation.

Iranian foreign minister said the experience of the last year showed that Iran and South Africa have high potentials for joint cooperation and Tehran-Pretoria

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Joint Economic Commission will explore the avenues in this regard.

South African officials said the U.S. Government should not dictate how South Africa should conduct its foreign policy and business. They said that Iran enjoys high status among South African nation due to its support for the popular struggle against the former racist regime in that country.

Director general of South African state-run Strategic Fuel Fund (SFF) said that his country will have dollars 208 million income through the agreement.

Commentary on Velayati's 'Fruitful' African Visit

NC2208102695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 22 Aug 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati concluded his week-long visit to South Africa and left the Mozambican capital of Maputo for Tehran last night.

Prior to his visit to Mozambique, Dr. Velayati visited various places in South Africa and Zimbabwe. He discussed bilateral issues and ways to broaden cooperation in his meeting with the Mozambican president, prime minister, and foreign minister. Joint memorandums of understanding were signed to boost economic and cultural exchanges as well as political cooperation with Mozambique.

In view of its history and the prolonged civil strife that has ravaged Mozambique, the country is very different from South Africa and Zimbabwe. But since it adheres to the Nonaligned Movement's principles and has never succumbed to the demands of the powers of arrogance, Mozambique is considered one of the progressive and revolutionary countries in South Africa.

This distinction has been instrumental in placing Mozambique in the common front with countries such as South Africa and Zimbabwe and in seeing it open its doors to reciprocally beneficial politico- economic bilateral cooperation with other Nonaligned Movement countries.

Peace in Mozambique and the stability that has stemmed from the extensive participation of the people in elections have seen this cooperation expand. The untapped scope in Mozambique and its potential capabilities in various agricultural products is conducive to more appropriate bilateral cooperation, especially as Mozambique is in the same rank of the common economic front as Zimbabwe and South Africa. Consequently, broadening political, economic, and cultural exchanges with each of these countries is tantamount to expanding relations with the economic cooperation organizations in South African countries.

In any case, our foreign minister's visit to Mozambique and to other South African countries indicates the active and fruitful diplomacy [preceding word in English] of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is not only giving prominence to our position among Third World countries, but is also broadening South-South relations, which provides extensive scope for the exchange of knowhow, technology, and experiences in various fields between the Islamic Republic of Iran and all developing countries.

Most of the reciprocal needs of the sides can be eliminated within this cooperation. Based on common cultural denominators, economic relations, and coordination in political stances, deep trust can be fostered among these countries.

Khamene'i's Envoy on Afghanistan Arrives in Kabul

LD1808082695 Tehran IRNA in English 0606 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Aug. 18, IRNA — Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's envoy on Afghanistan Hojjat ol-Eslam Ebrahimi arrived here Thursday [17 August] at the head of a delegation and was greeted by Afghan officials.

Ebrahimi said the goal behind his visit to Kabul was to implement Ayatollah Khamene'i's message calling for a halt to all acts of hostility and infighting between Afghan groups.

He said that while in Afghanistan he would hold talks with Afghan mojahedin leaders and with Afghan Government officials on ways of uniting various Islamic groups and Afghan people from various walks of life.

The Muslim people of Afghanistan have tolerated numerous hardships and problems stemming from war and fratricide in that country, which should come to an end.

Rafsanjani Stresses Importance of Defense Industries

LD2108151395 Tehran IRNA in English 1458 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yazd, Aug. 21, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said on Monday [21 August] that the defense industry of a country willing to live on the ideals of its Islamic revolution should not be dependent on foreign countries.

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Addressing the officials and staff of defence industry complex of Yazd, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani, expressed satisfaction with the development of Iranian defense industries and underlined his government's policy of improving the quality of defence-related products made inside the country.

The president, who is here on an inspection tour of the province, added the Islamic Republic of Iran now capable of meeting its defence requirements is a unique power in this regard in the world.

He said that in view of its huge manpower resources can powerfully made its presence in the world felt.

Meanwhile, President Rafsanjani on Monday inaugurated a brass producing plant, affiliated to the metallurgical industries of Yazd Province.

The plant, put into operation with a total capital investment of rls. 10.5 billion plus 44.1 million marks, covers an area of 18,000 square meters of lands and runs with an annual capacity of 24,000 tons of brass sheets. The plant has a staff of 250 people.

According to experts the plant would save dlrs. six million for the country besides exporting dlrs. eight million worth of its products abroad.

The plant is able to produce 8,000 tons of brass sheets per year in one working shift, with half of its output being exported abroad.

Economic Damage From Natural Disasters Reported

LD1708165695 Tehran IRNA in English 1316 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bojnurd, Khorasan Prov., Aug. 17, IRNA — Natural disasters in six major Iranian provinces this year inflicted a total of rls. 200 billion in damage, deputy interior minister for development affairs Rasul Zargar [name as received] announced here Thursday [17 August].

Zargar said that Iran's natural disasters headquarters had offered rls. 280 billion in credits to the victims of natural disasters to compensate for their damage and said rls. 70 billion more would also be allocated for this purpose by September 22.

He added that rls. 22 billion in credits had been allocated to northeastern Iranian province of Khorasan because of its exposure to natural disasters.

Rls. nine billion out of the total, he said, was to be spent on reconstruction of infrastructural installations and the remaining rls. 13 billion would be paid to the public by the banking system in compensation for their damage.

Free Trade Zone Regulations Reportedly Approved

LD2008183995 Tehran IRNA in English 1808 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 20, IRNA — The high Council for Iran's Free Trade and Industrial Areas headed by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here last night approved regulations for dealings of organizations at the Qeshm, Kish, and Chah-Bahar free trade zones.

According to the procedure, a three-member board comprised of the managing-director, a member of the board of directors of the respective organizations and an elected representative of the High Council for the Free Trade Zones will authorize tender formalities.

Foreign purchases of more than one million dollars require international tender formalities after approval of the commission and the managing-director.

The council also approved the proposal of Kerman's development authority to declare a place located between Sirjan railway station and Tehran-Bandar-e Abbas highway as a special economic zone.

Pakistan

Ramzi Yusuf 'Accomplice' Said Remanded in Custody

BK2108110595 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 21 Aug 95 p 3

[Report by Waseem Ahmad Shah]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar — Abdul Shakoor an accomplice of Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf, the main accused in World Trade Centre New York blast was remanded in to five days of physical custody to Crimes Investigation Department (CID) by Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Fazal Kareem Khattak, here on Sunday [20 August].

The 28 years old accused Abdul Shakoor, son of Abdul Qadir, was produced before the court by Inspector Begham Shah of CID, Peshawar. The accused was arrested at the beginning of 1995 at Cantt Railway station by Railway Police reportedly while he was carrying explosive with him. He was also charged at that time by the police for masterminding a conspiracy to kill Premier Benazir Bhutto.

The accused was resident of Askari Lane, Mohalla Juman Shah near Smani Mosque. After extradition of Ramzi Yusuf to USA by the government the law enforcing agencies hunted for his accomplices and at that time Abdul Shakoor was shifted to Karachi for interrogation.

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The CID, Peshawar prayed the court for eight days of physical custody but it granted five days custody. The application stated that the accused belongs to a terrorist group of Karachi. It is added that the same ethnic group has been carrying terrorist activities in Sindh which has put the safety of the country at stake. The CID further added that it needs the accused for interrogation in a case so that it could extract facts from him and names of certain other accused involved in terrorist activities.

The accused was brought from Central Jail, Peshawar. The police wanted his custody in an FIR [first information report] lodged on July 3, 1995 under section 124-A, and 153-A and 120-B, Pakistan Penal Code read with Section 16 Maintenance of Public Order. These articles deals with sedition and criminal conspiracy against head of state.

It may be recalled that the accused Abdul Shakoor earlier admitted that Ramzi Yusuf masterminded the bomb blast at the Iranian city, Mashud during which 25 persons were killed and 73 injured. He also named various other sons [as published], who according to him were involved in terrorist activities. The court ordered to produce the accused on August 25, 1995.

Pak-U.S. Exercises Called 'Normal Phenomenon'

BK1808102295 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 18 Aug 95 p 16

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Islamabad (PPI) — The National Assembly was told Thursday [17 August] that the recent Pak-US joint exercise by the commandos from both the countries is not directed against anyone.

Defence Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani in a written reply to a question by Mian Gul Aurangzeb of the PML (N) [Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz] informed the House that a total of 80 US commandos held joint exercise with Pakistani commandos from July 15 to August 15.

The Minister said bilateral, as well as, multinational exercises were a normal phenomenon to improve the professional standards through a mutual learning process.

To another question by Mian Yasin Wattoo, PML (N) the Defence Minister said there was no proposal under consideration to change the procedure of verification of the antecedents of the persons who are recruited in Pakistan army and is conducted by the police. [sentence as published]

He added that verification is being done in accordance with the army regulations.

The Minister said this responsibility could not be deputed to army, as the record of criminals and record of other police cases of civilians was being maintained by the police authorities.

Replying to a question by Barjees Tahir, he said the PLA [Pakistan International Airlines] had not discontinued any domestic or foreign flights in their summer schedule effective from June 18. However, re-routing of some international flights, as well as upgradation of some domestic flights has been done for the convenience of the travelling passengers. [passage omitted]

UN Withdrawal From Bosnian Safe Area Criticized

BK2008082695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has called for an effective presence by UN troops in the UN declared protected areas in Bosnia to save the people there from Serb aggression. In an interview at the United Nations, Ahmad Kamal, Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, criticized the withdrawal of UN troops from Gorazde and said the decision was tantamount to condoning the Serb policy of ethnic cleansing. Ahmad Kamal stated Pakistan's readiness to contribute troops, along with the other member countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to support the UN presence in the protected areas.

Report Addresses Murder of Hostage, 'Unknown Group'

BR1808134295 Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 16 Aug 95 p 2,5

[Report by Erik K. Selmer: "Pakistan Denies Knowledge of Ostro's Killers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan yesterday flatly denied any knowledge of those who are behind the murder of Hans Christian Ostro.

The country's charge d'affaires in Norway placed total responsibility for the tragic event on Indian authorities.

"Unknown Group"

At a press conference Charge d'Affaires S. Mudassir Noor ascertained that the hostage-takers are an "unknown group" and that the horrible killing was committed by "forces that try to discredit the Kashmiri people's legitimate struggle and hurt their cause."

"The accusing finger should be pointed where it belongs," Noor said.

However, he did not want to accuse Indian authorities directly "of being the brains behind" the killing.

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"We believe in international law and that guilt must be proven by a court. We do not wish to make capital of this human tragedy," Noor said.

He denied that Pakistan gives economic or military assistance to the Muslim separatists in Jammu-Kashmir.

"We give only moral and political support," he said.

This is provided to Kashmiri organizations that are members of the militant Hurriyat Conference, a coalition which holds around 30 local parties.

"This is no crime," Noor said.

Mercenaries

With Western intelligence organizations as sources NTB [NORSK TELEGRAMBYRA] reported Monday [14 August] that a great deal points to Afghan mercenaries as being behind the Al-Faran guerilla group on assignment from Pakistani intelligence.

Yesterday Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao also blamed Pakistan for the murder of Ostro and demanded that the country stop exporting terrorism to India.

According to the British intelligence journal Jane's Intelligence Review, between 1,000 and 1,200 foreign mercenaries reportedly are in Kashmir where they play a central role in the many militant groups that fight for a break from India.

Another 1,000 mercenaries reportedly are lying ready in approximately 10 training camps located in the Pakistani-occupied part of Kashmir and in the Pakistani state of Punjab.

The latter was flatly denied by Charge d'Affaires Noor.

Conference Appeals for Release of Kashmir Hostages

BK2008111995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] All Parties Hurriyat Conference of Jammu and Kashmir has again condemned the killing of a Norwegian tourist in occupied Kashmir and asked the captives to release the remaining foreign hostages immediately and unconditionally. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, the convener of the Executive Committee of the conference, Mr. Mahmud Ahmed Saghir, said the conference disowns so-called Al-Faran group, which was carved out by India to malign Pakistan and harm Kashmiris cause. He said All Parties Hurriyat Conference is unaware of any organization of this name and reaffirmed their pledge to continue their struggle till they achieve their right of self-determination in accordance with the UN resolutions. He also referred to the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and appealed to the international organizations to look into the Indian atrocities.

Spokesman Reiterates Appeal for Hostages' Release

BK2108024695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has once again called for the immediate and unconditional release of the people held hostage by an unknown group in occupied Kashmir. A Pakistani Government spokesman in Islamabad yesterday reiterated the appeal made by the prime minister and the Government of Pakistan in this respect. The spokesman recalled that the leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference in occupied Kashmir have also repeatedly appealed for the release of the hostages and called a strike in the entire occupied territory to make their appeal more effective. The success of the strike reflects that all Kashmiris unanimously condemn this inhuman act of abduction of foreign tourists in occupied Kashmir, which has harmed the basic objectives of the Kashmiri people.

Commentary Claims Indian Agency Behind Kidnappings

BK2108164195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Commentary by Yusuf Rafique]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is not surprising for anyone that Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao has held Pakistan responsible for the killing of the Norwegian hostage in occupied Kashmir, albeit the wild accusations signify total bankruptcy of New Delhi's Kashmir case. Alleging a Pakistani hand has always been a handy alibi for New Delhi to account for expressions of mass uprising against Indian occupation, and the greater the failure to subdue the spirit of resistance in Kashmir, the larger the noise about sponsorship of terrorism from across the border. But holding Pakistan responsible for what he called the brutal and senseless killing of the Norwegian tourist was taking the joke too far.

Even if one were to accept that Pakistan has enough leverage with the militant Kashmiri groups, it has nothing to gain by associating itself with an action that is patently a discredit to the case of the Kashmir struggle. The so-called Al-Faran group, which has claimed the responsibility for taking the hostages, is yet to be identified as a genuine resistance organization since it has come out of the blue to launch the controversial operation and it is being contended by all the independent analysts that it is a RAW [Research and Analysis Wing]-sponsored outfit. The contention of the

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independent analysts is based on the fact that India from the time the Kashmiris launched their armed struggle has not been able to conduct meetings on a table, and with the Al-Faran group it is meeting to conduct the hostage release. This clear-cut accessibility with the Al-Faran group points to the fact that this group is an Indian ploy and everything from the abduction to the killings is being conducted at the behest of the Indian RAW agency.

Rao had an extra reason to stir up anti-Pakistan hysteria when he accused Pakistan of having a hand in the killing of the Norwegian tourist. He is in desperate need of salvaging his credibility as a national leader before his term expires. His Independence Day speech delivered from the historic Red Fort was an opportunity to indulge in rhetoric and Rao had to offer some explanations for drawing a blank against actions by militant Kashmiri groups. He charged Pakistan with providing arms and training to Kashmiris and exporting terrorism to Kashmir — an accusation that New Delhi has repeatedly made, particularly in international quarters, to offset the charge of atrocities and human rights violations by the occupation army.

Pakistan has not only outrightly condemned the kidnapping of foreign tourists, it has also tried its best to secure the release of hostages by sending messages across the Line of Control, but no one seems to have been able to establish contacts with the Al-Faran group. The regrettable attempt by the Indian prime minister to somehow pin the blame on Pakistan appears to fit into a familiar pattern of Indian tactics. Ironically, when Rao was trying to trick his compatriots into believing that the trouble in Kashmir was not indigenous but sponsored from across the border, the valley of Kashmir presented a deserted look as the Kashmiris were observing a black day. Groups of people set on fire copies of the Indian Constitution and the tricolor flag, as the strike call given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference brought normal life to a standstill while Governor Krishna Rao performed the ritual of addressing an Independence Day parade in a stadium cordoned off by 5,000 troops.

Report Cites 'Sources' on 'Terrorism' Alert

BK2008083795 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 20 Aug 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Rana Ghulam Qadir]

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad — It has been learned through reliable sources that a secret agency has declared Islamabad "dangerous territory" and has advised the chief commissioner and inspector general of police to increase security arrangements and remain on high alert. These arrangements are being made to avert any possible acts of terrorism.

According to the sources, the CDA [Capital Development Authority] has also been instructed to repair street lights immediately. CDA Chairman Zafar Iqbal has declared an emergency in response. General Services Director Abdus Salam Wazir and Electrical and Mechanical Director Chaudhry Zaman have been instructed to repair all street lights within a week. Three vehicles have been purchased for use in replacing light bulbs and all employees' leaves have been canceled. Working day and night over the last three days, the staff has repaired 1,000 street lights. This work will hopefully be completed in the next few days. The work that has been completed so far has brightened the city and the citizens have appreciated it.

According to the sources, these emergency measures have been taken in response to reports received by the secret agency that terrorists are likely to move to Islamabad because of the strict actions of the forces in Karachi. It has also been learned that security has been tightened at Islamabad's airport, hotels in Rawalpindi and Islamabad, truck and bus stops, and railway stations. Personnel in plain clothes have been assigned to watch for terrorists. Vigilance at the entry points to Islamabad has also been increased.

Editorial Calls For Serious Negotiations With MQM

95AS0468D Karachi AMN in Urdu 17 Jul 95 p 3

[Editorial: " Examine Your Own Actions!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government's 21 points presented in the course of its negotiations with the Muhajir Quami Movement [MQM] has created an unexpected situation and resulted in spreading apprehension once again among the people. The peace of the city is in danger and the future of the negotiations, which had started after many destructive occurrences, appears dark. Most of the 21 points proposed by the government fall far short of the standard expected of negotiations held on a national level. For example, in these high-level national discussions, one of the demands made is that one of the participants should praise the Karachi package; also, the extradition of Javed Langra from India has been demanded. The attitude and tone of the government's 21 demands appears to be that of someone who is using his power to insist that his legitimate and illegitimate demands be accepted. One of the demands is that training camps in India be shut down. The list of demands is provocative and appears at the same time to be a deliberate attempt to mock the negotiations. The government's negotiating team, moreover, did not hand over the list to the MQM team during negotiations but

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distributed the list, written on ordinary paper, among the journalists. Later, the government news agency, APP, issued the list to the press. There was no mention of the 21 points in the joint statement. The MQM leadership is justified in its view that the government wants to sabotage the negotiations.

The government knows well that the people of Karachi are tired of the continuing bloodshed. Since Karachi is the economic hub of the country, what happens to Karachi affects the rest of the country. The sorry state of industry and business has wrecked the economy. In view of this situation, the country's intellectuals and politicians have been consistently demanding that the government and MQM solve their problems through negotiation. The government is being urged to stop using force to deal with political issues and to solve Karachi's problems by political means. The government is also under international pressure to negotiate with MQM. The government's recent actions show clearly that it is holding talks only to avert this pressure. It has always been emphasized that in order to hold discussions, it is necessary to have an agenda and the right atmosphere of negotiations but discussions have been started without any preparation. MQM, which was facing government accusations, could not lay down any conditions because it would then be accused of unwillingness to negotiate. Hence, MQM agreed to come to the negotiating table without any preconditions. However, the dramtic changes which have taken place in the second round of negotiations have disappointed public hopes. Leader of the MQM negotiating team, Ajmal Dehlavi, was justified in saying that the government's 21 points are in fact a list of accusations against MQM. Also, the government side did not observe the rules of ettiquette and by repeating the term Altaf group, adopted an insulting tone. By presenting its 21 point charge sheet, the government has unveiled its intentions and made it clear just how interested it is in the outcome of the negotiations and how much it cares about terrorism in Karachi. The government's attitude is of a lower calibre than that found in trade union talks. On the one hand, the government wants to provoke MQM and on the other hand, it wishes to convince the world that it has fulfilled the duty of holding negotiations. MQM demonstrated its goodwill regarding the negotiations but the other side did not reciprocate. On the contrary, the operation in Karachi was intensified. Even in those areas of the city where the operation was completed, law and order were not restored. Raids, sieges and arrests were extended to more areas; the murder of young people by law enforcement agencies increased. MQM has always demanded that the govenment put an end to terrorist activities and arrest the perpetrators. Ironically, the president himself has said that Al Zulfiqar and Jai Sindh are implicated in terrorist activities in Karachi; neverthless, no operation was undertaken against any other group and MQM alone has been singled out for punishment.

Intellectuals throughout the country are of the view that what is being done to MQM does not constitute a step toward negotiation and understanding. The prime minister continues to say that both negotiations and the operation would continue. Altaf Hussain, on the other hand, has asked the people to express their opinion as to what MQM should do in this situation. It is obvious that the government's attitude toward MQM is both vindictive and insulting.

The Pakistan People's Party should realize the seriousness of the situation and try to conduct negotiations seriously and with the intention of obtaining results. It should negotiate with MQM on the basis of equality.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Criticizes West for Backing Government Plan

BK2008110795 Hong Kong AFP in English 0554 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Aug 20 (AFP) — The Tamil Tigers excoriated western governments for supporting Sri Lanka's ethnic peace plan and rejected calls for laying down arms, the rebel newspaper received here Sunday [20 August] said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said Australia, Britain, Canada, France and the United States were too hasty in welcoming President Chandrika Kumaratunga's proposals, which the group described as flimsy and intangible.

"The eagerness of foreign governments to see that this conflict draws to a conclusion is reflected in the hasty manner in which they have showered praise on Colombo," the LTTE's official organ, the Inside Report, said.

The LTTE has already rejected as irrelevant a political package unveiled by Kumaratunga on August 3 granting greater autonomy to minority Tamils in a bid to end the separatist war which has claimed over 50,000 lives since 1972.

The Inside report accused Western government of suggesting in a "subtle manner" that the LTTE should surrender arms and re-enter negotiations with the Colombo government to hammer out a political settlement.

"To lay down arms for intangible proposals would not only be political suicide for the LTTE but national

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suicide for the Tamils," the Inside Report said in its editorial titled: Missing the Point.

It said the West had no understanding of the problem in Sri Lanka although the international community was "genuinely" interested in seeing that permanent peace and foreign investment were secured.

The Inside Report said that to suggest that the Colombo proposals were substantial and reasonable grounds for the LTTE to lay down arms was a gross over simplification of the politics of the North where the LTTE has its stronghold.

The LTTE has been leading the protracted struggle for an independent homeland for Sri Lanka's two million Tamils concentrated in the North-east and rejected all previous political attempts to resolve the conflict.

Western governments have blamed the LTTE for scuttling six months of peace talks and pulling out of a three-month-long truce on April 19 to resume their struggle for independence.

Kumaratunga, a member of the majority Sinhala community, while announcing he peace plan earlier this month said she hoped to militarily weaken the LTTE while pressing ahead with political moves to resolve the problems of Tamil civilians.

LTTE Reportedly Executes 10 'Suspected Spies'

BK1708114995 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists have executed 10 Tamils opposed to their movement which [LTTE] has launched an organized campaign to weed out suspected spies. They killed the 10 men from April onwards in the Jaffna Peninsula stronghold and later informed the relatives of the victims. Travelers in the region said that the LTTE had also launched a search for alleged spies who had tipped off Sri Lankan security forces about a major LTTE attack against the military complex in the northeast last month.

The LTTE's assault against the Weli Oya military facility ended in disaster with the rebels losing over 300 of their men and women fighters, while the Army lost only two men while resisting the guerrilla onslaught. The Tigers blamed their failure on a spy tipping off the military, and since then has been questioning or rather continuing witch hunts in areas under their control in the island's north. Meanwhile, it was unclear if the LTTE's former deputy leader, Gopalaswami Mahendra Raja alias Mahattaya, who had been accused on collaborating with Indian and Sri Lankan intelligence agencies, was still alive. Mahendra Raja was placed under arrest and a court was investigating his case after the LTTE accused him of leaking information to Indian authorities leading to the capture of an LTTE arms shipment in January 1993. The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has been reportedly denied access to Tamil prisoners held by the LTTE although the ICRC is showed just over 50 security personnel and Sinhala fishermen in rebel detention. [sentence as heard]

LTTE Said Detaining Suspected Government Spies

BK1908125795 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists have arrested about 30 Tamil civilians suspected of spying for the Sri Lanka military after carrying out 10 self-styled execution of dissidents. Travelers from the region said yesterday that the LTTE detained the civilians following an investigation into their [words indistinct] battle in which they lost some 300 fighters during abortive raid on military complex.

According to the AFP news agency, the LTTE had killed 10 Tamils opposed to their movement in the past four months as part of a systematic campaign to weed out the dissidents. In the latest crackdown, the LTTE's intelligence wing initially concentrated on those who have left the Jaffna peninsula just before the assault on the Weli Oya military facility on the 28th of last month.

President Issues Statement on First Year in Office

BK2008130395 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The PA [People's Alliance] government's performance has not belied its promise, President Chandrika Kumaratunga said in a statement to mark the completion of a year in office by the PA government. She says systematic measures were taken to revise and rebuild the economy, which was in shatters under the earlier regime. The government also set out a framework for a lasting settlement of the northeast crisis. She pointed out that when the PA took office, they had to face two challenges of fundamental and overriding importance — they had to resolve the ethnic crisis and revive the economy paralyzed by corruption and lack of vision. The new government has turned the tide successfully. The economy is now back on the proper track with a clear plan of development, rid of corruption at the top, and moving dynamically toward a modern technological takeoff.

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The president, comparing the statistics of foreign investment flows and realized projects in the first year in office of the UNP [United National Party] administration led by President J.R. Jayewardene and the late President Ranasinghe Premadasa, pointed out that the foreign investment for 1995 is higher than the total for six years from 1977 to 1981 and 1989 to 1990. During the first six months in 1978, the total foreign investment was 208 million rupees; and in 1990 it was 831 million rupees. Under the PA government, the foreign investment has risen to 1,758 million rupees. She noted that the total number of projects for one year under her regime is equal to the total for all six years from 1977 to 1987 [year as heard] and 1989 to 1990.

Employment generation in the first five months of this year is higher than the employment generated in the first five years of the UNP regime. The present government's economic policy successfully brought down inflation from 13 percent in July 1994 to 4 percent in April 1995. The inflation is now running at 6 percent. The overall exports have grown by 17 percent in the first half of 1995 as compared with the same period in 1994. Commercial credit for the private sector has increased by 25 percent as compared with the previous years. About 20 [word indistinct] 500 companies have come in to invest in Sri Lanka in the last one year, but not a single one invested in the country during 1977 to 1994. The president says these factors clearly show that the economy has begun to move dynamically along the well-planned path of development initiated by the PA government.

Radio Details President's Comments on Proposals

BK2108122295 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government's new devolution proposals will give an opportunity for the Sinhala youths to participate directly in the administration of the country. President Chandrika Kumaratunga has said that this will give them the opportunity to make collective decisions and to implement them.

She said in a radio and TV interview yesterday that the devolution proposals will benefit not only the minorities but the entire country as well. In the past, the Sinhala youths waged war twice against the government. Their demands were for employment opportunities, better income, and the right to participate in the political and administrative setup. Seventy-five percent of the population in the country are youths under 35 years of age. The president reiterated that they have every right to be involved in the administration of the country.

She believed that the Tamil people were satisfied with the proposals put forward by the government. She was confident that the Sinhala and Muslim people would also be satisfied with the proposals. Even though the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has not accepted these proposals, the ethnic problem could be resolved if the people in the north accepted them. To resolve the problem with the cooperation of the Tamil population, it is imperative for the Sinhala majority to cooperate. She said that at the last elections the electorate was clearly told about the devolution of power. The 63 percent mandate at the presidential election was a clear approval given for the devolution of power.

The president recalled that the Tamil people denounced war even under threat of death and gave 82 percent and 86 percent of their votes in the 1982 elections to Kobbekaduwa and in the 1994 elections to herself. If the LTTE were bent on war, the government will be compelled to reply in like manner. However, the entire Tamil population does not represent the LTTE. This was clearly demonstrated at the last presidential election. The government has put forward these proposals to unite a divided country. With the devolution of power, a divided country could be united. For the past 12 years, we have not be able to go beyond Vavuniya. The security forces also travelled by air. The government agents representing the government travelled to and from Jaffna to Colombo with a permit obtained from the LTTE. Mrs. Kumaratunga emphasized that she is making every effort to build up a country where everyone could travel to Jaffna or Colombo.

From the time of the past regime, the country has been demarcated into several provinces. During colonial time, nine provinces were marked out to facilitate administration. These proposals have been put forward after considerable deliberation. There is no international pressure for these proposals. Nevertheless, the world community has wholeheartedly approved these proposals. The previous regime did not obtain such acclaim. The world community at that time supported the LTTE. The rural Sinhala population has stressed the need for the war to end and for the return of their children to their villages. The president said that they opposed the division of the country as much as she does. All political parties represented in Parliament with the exception of two parties have already agreed to the devolution proposals. All matters regarding the devolution will be clearly explained to the people at the electorate level. The president reiterated that executive presidency would be abolished after the revision of the Constitution.

A firm policy has been formulated to strengthen the economy after the government assumed power. The (?wheels) have been set in motion to direct the economy

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on a better path with the next budget. During the last year, corruption and waste have been contained to a great extent. Inflation has been reduced from 13 percent to 3 percent. Exports have increased by 17 percent. Whatever charges are leveled against the government by the opposition, today everyone is able to taste the (?food) of an open economy. The economic program carried out silently by the government during the past year will be evident within the next six months when a major difference is witnessed in the economy. The president categorically stated that she has no doubt whatsoever that once the people reap the benefits of the new economic policies and that if their is an election, the government will win a similar victory as in the last elections.

The UNP [United National Party] government was able to launch only 68 development projects during a six-year period. The present government, however, has already begun 68 projects and received foreign investment to the tune of 1,750 million rupees. The UNP government received only a very small amount as foreign investment during a six-year period. The government has provided 14,400 jobs during this short period, 320 more new projects have been approved, and 75,000 youths will obtain jobs in these ventures. The Southern Province Development Authority may be set up next month. The government proposes to set up such authorities in all other provinces. Even though the UNP launched an open economy in 1977, it could not get even one of the leading 500 companies in the world to invest in Sri Lanka. However, under the present government, 20 of these companies have expressed their willingness to invest in Sri Lanka.

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